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## Seven killed in Afula car-bomb attack

YIGAL KOTZER  
 and news agencies

SEVEN persons were killed and 52 wounded yesterday, when a car bomb, apparently detonated by a suicide attacker, exploded next to a bus taking on high school pupils in Afula. Hamas claimed responsibility in reprisal for the Hebron mosque massacre.

Bus driver Asher Attia was apparently the only fatality on the bus. The others were standing near the bus at the time of the blast. (See box.)

The explosion erupted about 12:10 p.m. Witnesses said they saw a huge flash when a light blue car, parked about three meters from an Egged bus exploded.

The No. 340 bus, en route from Afula to Migdal Ha'emek, had pulled out of the town's central bus station and stopped near the cultural center to pick up passengers. As the driver opened the front door to let them on, the car blew up, destroying the front section of the bus.

Initial investigation revealed that the car, which had been stolen, also contained several gas canisters - to increase the force of the explosion - and a large quantity of nails - to maximize the number of wounded.

Many of the victims were teenagers from two nearby junior high schools, where some classes had just let out.

"Two boys were burning like torches. They came running toward me, and I took one and doused the flames with a rag, and then I ripped off his clothes," said Albert Amos, 43, a driving teacher. "He was burned all over. When I touched him, pieces of his skin came off in my hand."

The other boy was put in an ambulance. "He was shouting, 'What happened to me? What did I do?'" said Amos.

Shlomo Ohayon, an ambulance driver, said the scene was a "terrifying mess, a slaughterhouse. People were charred, without limbs, without heads. Most of the wounded and dead were teenagers."

Parents gathered at the children's ward of Ha'emek Hospital, where one father, Ya'acov Rahamim, 49, said his 13-year-old son Kadouri was being treated for burns on the forehead, shoulders, and hands.



Police examine the scene of yesterday's car-bomb explosion. The wreckage of the car can be seen in the foreground.

(Alon Ron / Israel Sun)

Northern District police chief Cmdr. Ya'acov Ganot told Israel Radio the explosion killed eight, including the bomber, and wounded at least 50.

But Dr. Avishai Burstein, director of emergency services at Ha'emek Hospital, put the number of wounded at 52, most of them teenagers 14- to 16-years-old. Some of the injured were Arabs.

Some of the victims were from Brosh Junior High School, where students told reporters the teachers made them sit in the hallway with their heads between their legs for 20 minutes after the explosion, because they feared further blasts.

A number of youths were treated for shock, and psychologists rushed to the scene to calm students.

Eran Adnani, 15, said the explosion occurred "just about the time I had wanted to cut biology class and to go to the bus stop. A friend held me back at the last minute, saying I had better stay here."

Witnesses said a shock wave rolled over the area when the car exploded.

"We heard and felt a great explosion," said Haim Volkovitch, superintendent of the cultural center near the bus stop. "There were kids running all over the place in shock. People were bleeding on the ground."

Volkovitch said the explosion killed a girl about 17 who was standing next to him.

The bus windows were all shattered and the interior was burned hulk, with blackened sneakers, clothes, and other belongings scattered around it. Some people were injured when windows in nearby businesses shattered.

Ambulances raced to the scene and helicopters landed to evacuate the seriously wounded.

Five of the most seriously injured - four women and a girl severely burned and also suffering head injuries - were taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital by IAF helicopter. Four were reported in critical condition, and one later died.

Three others were helicoptered to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer. (See story, Page 2.)

### The dead

THOSE killed in yesterday's car-bombing were:  
 • Asher Attia, 48, of Afula, the bus driver. He was married to Jacqueline and had three children: Yafit, 22, Shai, 21, and Erez, 17.

• Vered Mordechai, 13, of Afula. The oldest daughter of Yoel and Emily Mordechai, she had three sisters: Sivan, 11, Meital, 9, and Liron, 6.

• Maya Elharar, 17, of Afula. An 11th grader, she was the daughter of Michel and Yaffa Elharar, and had a brother, Eitan, 20, and a sister Riki, 16.

• Ilana Schreiber, 45, a teacher from Kibbutz Nir David.

• Meirav Ben-Moshe, 16, of Afula.

• Ayala Vahaba, 40, a teacher, from Afula.

• Fadiya Shalabi, 25, of Kfar.

(Iltim)

## Terrorist was wanted Hamas member

BILL HUTMAN  
 and ALON PINKAS

THE terrorist bomber in the Afula attack has been identified as Ra'id Abdullah Zakarna, 25, who was wanted for his activities in Hamas for more than a year, according to Arab sources.

Police said it is likely Zakarna was the terrorist inside the car, but as of last night had not positively identified the body.

Zakarna, a resident of Kabatiya near Jenin, was jailed for two months last year, and then apparently joined Hamas's Izzadin Kassem military organization.

A cousin of Zakarna's said he was consumed by the idea of waging holy war against Israel after his release from prison a year ago.

Ali Zakarna, 40, said he was a distant cousin to the attacker and tutored him in religion.

"What he did was religious vengeance. He was a strong believer in Islam since he was 10 years old," Zakarna said, and joined Hamas while in high school.

He said Ra'id had been jailed for almost 60 days at the beginning of 1993, and emerged from prison with bruises on his face and abdomen.

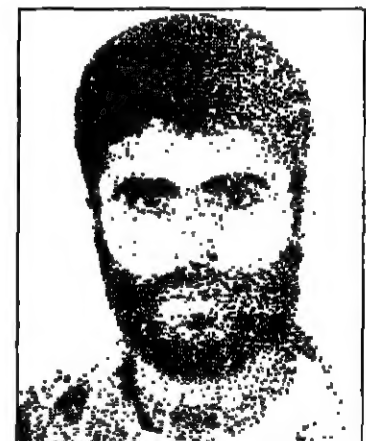
The elder Zakarna said the family had also gone to the Israeli human rights group B'tselem and MK Hashem Mahmed to complain about his torture and sexual abuse in jail.

B'tselem said yesterday it was checking its records, and Mahmed could not be reached for comment.

After his release he started talking about jihad as a compulsory duty for Muslims," said Zakarna, speaking in a telephone interview.

Last night, security forces continued searching for other terrorists who may have helped put together the car bomb used in the attack.

Police Inspector-General Rafi (Continued on Page 2)



Ra'id Abdullah Zakarna

(Khalil Zuhari)

## PLO irked at break in Cairo negotiations

News agencies

IT was unnecessary for Israel to break off the talks for Holocaust Remembrance Day, chief PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'ath said in Cairo yesterday, since it will reduce the possibility of meeting the April 13 deadline. Israeli negotiators said they would return on Sunday.

"It is needless, it is absolutely useless," he said. "I think it needs the proper use of time and the will to really finish on time. The Israelis bear the whole responsibility for any hesitation about the 13th."

Sha'ath said he had tried to persuade the Israelis to stay and promised to continue negotiations by fax and telephone. "I have yet to see how this will achieve the result," he added.

When the Palestinians had a day of mourning, they usually stopped work for only an hour, he said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said the Israeli decision was unnecessary. "I think that the (Continued on Page 2)

Hisham Abdel-Razek, a senior PLO official in Gaza, said the ceremony set for yesterday morning in which a police station would be transferred to Palestinian control was canceled by PLO leaders. He said the transfer would wait until the negotiations in Cairo over the Palestinian force is completed.

"There won't be anything until there is an agreement," Abdel-Razek told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Rashid Abu Shebak, one of the 49 deportees allowed to return home and who has been appointed coordinator with Israeli authorities, said "technical difficulties" had delayed the transfer.

"The transfer will be postponed perhaps for a few days, because of the snags in Cairo," Shebak said.

Hundreds of Gazans stood outside the police station waiting for the Israeli police to lower the national flag and for the Palestinian officers to raise their flag. After a half-hour delay, the crowd began to get restless and some tried to climb the fence of the police barracks holding Palestinian flags.

An IDF soldier waving a stick

shouted at the Palestinians to come down, as the crowd booted. Several minutes later, several people in the crowd identified as Fatah activists moved in to restrain the young Gazans.

The ceremony has been postponed, an IDF officer told the Palestinians. "It will be held tomorrow at noon."

Some of the Palestinians appeared disappointed. "Where is the Fatah delegation?" one shouted.

Gaza Police Commander David Sadeh said his men would remain until the Fatah representatives arrive.

Earlier, a firebomb was thrown at the station, which houses about 50 officers. The attack, which coincided with a strike called by the Islamic Jihad, caused no injuries or damage.

Fatah officials said that despite the April 13 deadline for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, they remain uncertain over when the first Palestinian officers would be deployed in the territories. Seven senior police officers were to have arrived earlier this week but their trip has been postponed.

Israeli and PLO officials said the snags in the Cairo talks include the number of police to be allowed in immediately. The Palestinians are seeking an armed force of 1,500 and a victory entrance parade. Israel wants to limit the number to 300 and wants them to keep a low profile. The government also wants a limited number of officers assigned to sensitive security patrols in the strip.

Ziad Rief, a PLO commander sent to prepare for the arrival of the Palestinian police force, said he wants to deploy between 8,500 and 10,000 police officers in the territories, the bulk of them in Gaza. So far, he said, he commands only 78 men.

Last night, four soldiers were lightly wounded when a hand grenade was thrown at their jeep in the Shati refugee camp in the Gaza Strip yesterday evening. The attacker escaped.

## Russia commemorates Holocaust Remembrance Day

Yeltsin: Remember the victims, don't forget the guilty

MOSCOW (AP) - President Boris Yeltsin warned against the dangers of political extremism yesterday as part of Russia's first official commemoration of international Holocaust Remembrance Day.

"Now, when political extremism is brazenly asserting itself throughout the world, it is especially important for us to remember the victims and not to forget the guilty," Yeltsin said in a statement.

The Soviet Union had ignored the tragedy of the six million Jews killed by the Nazis until the country began to acknowledge the scope of the tragedy during Mikhail Gorbachev's rule.

Historians believe about two million of the victims lived in former Soviet republics, mainly in the Baltics, Belarus, and Ukraine.

Russia is now slowly beginning to pay attention not just to its heavy losses in World War II, known here as the Great Patriotic War, but to those of other countries, including Jews.

"We bow our heads before the tragedy of the people against which fascism committed one of the most dreadful crimes," Yeltsin said in a written message to participants of a symposium on "The Lessons of the Holocaust and Contemporary Russia."

Several members of the Duma, the lower house of parliament, told Russian television they thought the legislature should find an appropriate way to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The commemoration of the Holocaust has political significance in Russia, where nationalist parties, some of which campaign on antisemitic themes, have gained prominence over the last several years.

Marek Edelman, the last surviving leader of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto uprising, told reporters the Moscow symposium and growing awareness in Russia of the Holocaust are signs of hope the victims will not be forgotten.

Apart from the symposium, Russian television carried several long reports on the Holocaust.

In Budapest, Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky was heckled off stage at a conference on the Holocaust when he sought to equate the deaths of 600,000 Hungarian Jews with Hungarian war losses during World War II.

During the war, Hungary was nominally allied with Nazi Germany.

Jeszenszky was speaking at the opening Tuesday of a three-day conference that is one of several events marking the Hungarian Holocaust.

"While remembering the 600,000 Jews killed, do not forget the almost 500,000 [ethnic] Hungarian victims, too," Jeszenszky reportedly told the conference.

"I do not think anyone would dispute that Nazism and communism have led to tragedy for millions of people. These two systems deserve to be condemned together," Jeszenszky reportedly said. His remarks were carried in full by the *Nepszava* daily, and confirmed by people who attended the conference.

At that point, participants in the conference began clapping and stomping their feet, forcing Jeszenszky to break off his speech.

"A Holocaust conference is not the place to lament the Hungarian soldiers killed on the Russian front, much less to equate those losses of the nation with the 600,000 Hungarian Jews who perished in the Holocaust," Attila Pok, a historian who attended the conference, told *The AP* yesterday.

Jeszenszky's remarks coincided with an election campaign marred by blatantly antisemitic campaign art and slogans used by an extreme right-wing party. Though it has little chance of success in the May 8 elections, its campaigning has heightened concerns about signs of rising antisemitism in Hungary.

Holocaust Remembrance Day. Pages 5, 14

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# Authorities weighing new measures against territories residents

THE outlawing of Palestinians entering Israel in anything but public buses, an extended closure of the territories, and widespread arrests of Palestinians illegally residing in Israel are being considered as responses to the Afula massacre, Police Inspector-General Rafi Peled said last night.

A decision has already been taken to prevent Palestinians from entering Israel until at least tomorrow, Peled told a press conference. The closure would likely continue until after Independence Day next Thursday, he said.

Army sources said last night they

## Demonstrations throughout country against government

BILL HUTMAN and YIGAL KOTZER

would recommend to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to tighten, at least for the coming weeks, the closure of the territories, and bar the entry of private vehicles into Israel.

Police also would intensify the nationwide operation, begun Tuesday, to apprehend Palestinians illegally in Israel, Peled said.

He said the security forces and the government are considering other steps

to improve security and prevent unnecessary friction between the Israeli and Palestinian populations. A final decision would be taken soon, he said.

Police want Palestinians to be forbidden, once the closure is lifted, from entering the country in anything but buses. Most Palestinians are already not allowed to drive private vehicles into Isra-

el, and instead must use buses and taxis.

The proposal was aimed at helping police contain terror attacks, and keep a closer check on Palestinians entering the country, according to Peled.

Hundreds of police were deployed yesterday in Afula and Migdal Ha'emek to prevent revenge attacks on Arabs. Workers from the territories were also sent

home, after police checked their papers.

Last night thousands of protesters demonstrated throughout the North, blocking junctions and shouting condemnations against Arabs. Many called on the government to halt the talks with the PLO and to resign.

The demonstrations took place in Nahariya, Kiryat Shmona, the Golan junction, Karmiel, Kfar Hahassidim, and Tirat Carmel.

Dozens of youths also gathered in Afula, but police prevented any disturbances. Police sources said that in the past, Arab terrorist attacks in and around Afula had sparked extreme reactions.

Police were preparing for possible unrest today during the funerals of those killed in the attack, the sources said. Protests also took place last night in 17 locations around the country.

In Jerusalem last night, several hundred protesters gathered in Zion Square and some set fires alight on six police cars. Police arrested four demonstrators. Alon Pinkas contributed to this report.

## Netanyahu calls for inquiry into Afula bombing

SARAH HONIG and DAVID MAKOVSKY

LIKUD leader Binyamin Netanyahu called yesterday for the establishment of a judicial inquiry commission to investigate the circumstances surrounding the Afula massacre. He demanded the government immediately suspend talks with the PLO in response to the shedding of innocent blood by Arabs.

While the opposition pointed to the bloodshed in Afula as yet another example of the deterioration of the security situation ever since and despite the signing of the Oslo agreement, the coalition side asserted that the real target in Afula was the peace process. Israel will not give Hamas and the Islamic Jihad a victory by halting the peace process, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said.

"We have to take into account that we are not finished with violence and terror," he told Israel Radio. "The principle lesson is that there are still plenty of people who want to kill the peace process."

In response to Likud demands that the peace process be halted, Peres retorted: "During the Likud's time [in office], were there not attacks?"

He said that the attack demonstrated how the Hebron massacre has also exacted high toll on Israel. "I don't know if we have finished paying the price," he added ominously. "All those who were joyous about the killing - those few people - don't realize what a catastrophe they have caused us."

Netanyahu expected the government to react to the murder in Afula no less severely than the PLO reacted to the murder in Hebron. "Just as the PLO suspended the talks following the actions of one Jew, so Israel should suspend the talks. Just as the PLO used what happened in Hebron to make demands on Israel and extort a tangible price from Israel, so the Rabin government should now seek to obtain concessions from the PLO. What was so understandable in the PLO's reaction would be no less justified on our

side," Netanyahu said.

He went on to say that "an inquiry commission should now be immediately set up to investigate how the massacre in Hebron was perpetrated, who trained the murderer, who sent him, how it was that he carried out his scheme, etc. Surely Jewish blood is not judged by this government as cheaper than Arab blood," Netanyahu added.

He finds the timing "of the bloody attack in Afula not surprising as it comes when the government is returning dozens of deported terrorists to the scene of their crime. The attack is one more testimony to the fact that the government's obsequiousness and capitulation before the PLO only encourages terror. The Rabin government is responsible for the unprecedented deterioration of the personal security of Israel's citizens."

Tsomet's Rafael Eitan noted that "after a supposed peace deal had been contracted, one would expect that the terror would be no more. But unfortunately this is not so because the deal this government signed is not a peace deal and will not bring peace. The Arabs have not changed and they will seize any opportunity to slaughter Jews. They will continue to do their best to spill as much Jewish blood as they can."

However, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid of Meretz maintained that "an attack like this cannot be prevented. This is an onslaught directed against the peace process. The target here is peace and therefore we don't need anyone like Bibi [Netanyahu] to tell us to suspend the talks. This is just what the perpetrator was after and we shall not grant him his last wish."

Deputy Health Minister Nawaf Massalha of Labor advised Israelis to "bite their lips and go on with the negotiations and pursue coexistence with their Arab neighbors."

## Arafat declines to condemn attack

HILLEL KUTTLER, BILL HUTMAN and news agencies

PLO leader Yasser Arafat refused to condemn yesterday's car-bomb attack in Afula. When asked by a reporter about the attack - while he was in Cairo for meetings with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak - Arafat ignored the question and left the room, according to reports on Israel Radio.

The United States yesterday urged Arafat to condemn the bombing. "We certainly hope that Chairman Arafat would condemn this act of violence," said State Department spokesman Mike McCurry.

"The language would be of the chairman's choosing, but it would be helpful if he expressed himself on this incident," he said.

The US denounced the car-bombing attack, calling it an example of "extremist violence."

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms this abhorrent act of terrorism in Afula this morning," the State Department said in a statement released yesterday. "We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of those killed and our sincere hopes for the

quick recovery of those injured. The Israeli people have lived with the scourge of terrorism for decades. We stand together with them in this difficult hour, committed to Israel's security, to fighting terrorism and to pushing forward on the Arab-Israeli peace process."

The head of the PLO's negotiating team in Cairo, Nabil Sha'ath, said yesterday that only peace could prevent more killings on both sides, mentioning Palestinian deaths in Gaza and February's massacre in Hebron.

"One of the important reasons we are pushing for a signing of this agreement is to stop all these killings, whether in Gaza, Hebron, or Afula," he said. "It is a reminder we need to sign the agreement."

A spokesman for the PLO in Gaza, Diab Loh, echoed this sentiment. "Every drop of blood spilled at zero hour is regrettable," Loh said. "We as Palestinians are making every effort to move into a new era, when there will not be any killing or bloodshed."

The bombing in Afula "is pain-

ful for all of us," the ranking PLO leader in Gaza said last night.

"We are against such acts, whether they are against Moslems, Jews or Christians, Israelis, or Palestinians," said Zacharia Agha in a telephone interview.

Agha said he was speaking for the majority of Palestinians in condemning of the car bombing.

"We want the peace process to be finished quickly, because only after an agreement has been reached will we be able to put an end to these acts," Agha said.

He cautioned, however, that even after an agreement is reached, terror attacks would continue. "Such acts occur even in normal countries. Israel also has its radicals that it cannot control."

"All these incidents would add to the difficulties of the situation," said Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa. "We hope that by negotiating and signing an agreement [between Israel and the PLO], all these things will hopefully disappear and we will have cooperation instead of such things," he told reporters.



Relatives of the victims console one another in Afula yesterday.

(Alon Ron/Israel Sun)

## Four terror victims in critical condition

YIGAL KOTZER and JUDY SIEGEL

FOUR of the 52 wounded in yesterday's Afula car-bomb attack were in critical condition last night at Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Three women and a 15-year-old girl were in the intensive care unit, doctors said. Another woman brought to the hospital by helicopter died before doctors could operate.

The four remain unconscious after surgery. The girl was operated on for a fractured skull, and the other three suffer from brain injuries and severe body wounds and burns.

Doctors had to remove the leg of one woman and may have to remove the left eye of another.

Most of the wounded suffered from burns. Two 12-year-old Afula boys, Shlomi Eliahu and Tal Peretz, were taken by helicopter to the Children's Medical Center of Israel in Petah Tikva for treatment of severe burns all over their bodies. They were also treated for smoke inhalation.

A helicopter took three other victims to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer. A 13-year-old boy who suffered second- and third-degree burns over 30 percent of his body was admitted in moderate condition. A woman soldier who suffered a wound to her eye

was listed in moderate condition, while a woman with many wounds in her limbs, face, and abdomen was in serious condition.

Ha'emek Hospital, which opened a hot-line for relatives of the victims (06-524140), had 10 patients still under its care last night; the rest were treated and sent home.

According to hospital director Dr. Moti Lifshitz, one patient was in serious condition and being treated in the respiratory intensive care unit; four were in moderate condition, and five had moderate-to-light injuries. Two of the

wounded were Arabs.

Lifshitz said the hospital had not seen such a tragedy since the Yom Kippur War. "But we were ready, as we have regular emergency drills. All our staff were on duty and ready to treat patients. Less than 90 minutes after the blast, we had examined all the patients and known whether to keep them or transfer them to other hospitals."

Meanwhile, Magen David Adom called on residents of the North to go to Afula hospital and MDA branches in the area to donate blood. Over a thousand people throughout the North donated blood.

## 'Bombing was bound to happen'

BILL HUTMAN

THE use of a car bomb in the Afula terrorist attack yesterday came as no surprise to security forces.

Cmdr. Arye Amit, head of police operations, publicly warned over a month ago that Palestinian terrorists had gained great expertise in the use of car bombs.

Eight car bombings - all in the administered territories - were reported in 1993, compared to two in 1992.

Amit at the time attributed the upswing to the training in the use of car bombs Palestinian terrorists received in Lebanon.

Senior police sources, meanwhile, pointed out that the terrorists are using far more complex technology in setting up the car bombs than in the past, forcing police to reassess preventive measures.

Police Inspector-General Rafi Peled described the bomb used in Afula as "massive," and including several gas canisters and a large amount of other explosive material he declined to specify.

The Afula car bombing tragically demonstrated the difficulty security forces have in stopping such attacks, according to police sources.

Peled, and other police brass, rejected assessments that the attack reflected a failure on their part. There is only so much the police and other branches of the security forces can do, they said.

Excellent intelligence information and a little luck - on the part of officers looking for stolen cars that could potentially be used in a terror attack - are needed to foil car bombings. In Afula yesterday, police had neither.

## Weizman condemns attack

Jerusalem Post Staff

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman condemned the terrorist attack in Afula as the murder of innocent civilians, whose objective was to kill the chances for peace between Jews and Arabs in Israel.

"Today, as we stand to honor the memory of the victims of the Holocaust, this explosion, which the murderers and those who stand behind them sought to set off, will not destroy our desire to live in peace," said Weizman.

"I wish the victims a full and speedy recovery, and I offer my deepest condolences to the families of those who were murdered."

Weizman spoke by telephone to the mayor of Afula, and extended his condolences to the families and to the residents of Afula and the surrounding area.

Today Weizman is to visit the wounded in Ha'emek Hospital.

### Israel-PLO economic talks resume

Talks between Israel and the PLO on the economic aspects of Palestinian self-rule resumed in Paris yesterday amid hopes of an accord next week, delegates said.

The talks, suspended on February 25 just before the Hebron massacre, are an important but discreet sideshow to negotiations in Cairo on the political aspects of the hand over to Palestinian rule.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat held a one-hour private meeting with PLO economics chief Ahmed Korei (Abu Ala) at a French government conference center before their delegations resumed negotiations.

Reuters

## The Knesset Visits to the Knesset Building

Today, Thursday, April 7, Heroes and Martyrs Remembrance Day, there will be no tours of the Knesset, because of the ceremony, Unto Every Man There is a Name, but the public is invited to participate in this ceremony, which will take place between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

### Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the King of spades, eight of hearts, seven of diamonds and 10 of clubs.

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of our dear

### LEAH MENDELSON (Porat)

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, April 7, 1994 (26 Nissan 5754) at 12:30 p.m., at Sdeh Yehoshua Cemetery (Kfar Samir) Haifa, Gate No. 1.

Mourners:

Husband: Heinz Mendelson

Daughter: Falina Klachkin, and Family

Daughter: Rachel Ziv, and Family

Son: Mickey Mendelson, and Family

Brother: Mendel Barkai, and Family

Jay Rosen and family  
and all the staff of  
Roseben Ltd.

mourn the tragic passing of

### DAVID BENJAMIN

A true friend and partner  
Deeply mourned

### TERRORIST

(Continued from Page One)

Peled said it appears that the bomber, who was killed in the blast, had accomplices. He said it was still unclear whether the terrorist died in a suicide attack or his bomb detonated prematurely.

The General Security Service had warned of possible car-bomb attacks as the mourning period for the Hebron massacre ended.

A man identifying himself as a Hamas member called Israel Radio's Arabic service minutes after the bombing, claiming the group was responsible for the attack.

Peled said the car, stolen on March 22 in Ramat Gan, was driven into Afula from Samaria.

The terrorist apparently searched for a crowded place to detonate the bomb-laden vehicle. While it is believed to have been a suicide-bomb attack, Peled said, the possibility the terrorist hoped to escape before the explosion had not been ruled out.

A charred Koran carried by the terrorist was found at the scene.

"We were on alert for the 40th day after the [Hebron] massacre," a mourning day for Moslems when security forces believed attacks would be carried out, Peled said.

In telephone calls to news agencies, Hamas said yesterday's bombing was carried out to mark the 40th day since the Hebron massacre and to halt the peace process.

A similar statement was made over a mosque loudspeaker in Gaza City.

"We claim responsibility for the heroic suicide operation in Afula. We proved to the world that the arms of [Hamas] are capable of stopping all the conspiracies that are plotted against our people both here and abroad," one statement said.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### IDF, Hizbullah trade fire in south Lebanon

Seven Lebanese civilians were wounded yesterday when Hizbullah fired Katyusha rockets into the security zone, security sources said.

They said a salvo of six Katyushas hit the villages of Ain Ebil and Debel, destroying several houses and starting fires.

IDF gunners retaliated, firing dozens of shells into a string of villages to the north of the zone.

The Katyusha attack followed a rocket and artillery duel between IDF and SLA gunners and Hizbullah gunmen.

The duel began when the IDF gunners shelled the outskirts of the villages of Kafra and Yster to the north of the zone after an SLA soldier was wounded in an attack on a post near Beit Leaf.

Reuters

#### Syria lauds Assad-Mubarak summit

A state-run Syrian newspaper said yesterday that the Cairo summit between Presidents Hafez Assad and Hosni Mubarak had improved chances of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The daily *Tishrin* also said the common stand by the two countries would "fortify Arab ranks against any Zionist penetration attempts."

Assad on Tuesday ended a two-day visit to Egypt.

(AP)

#### Bank robbers escape with NIS 23,000

Three masked men robbed the Bank Hapoalim branch in the Galilee village of Jan at gunpoint yesterday, escaping with NIS 23,000.

The robbery occurred shortly after 8 a.m., when four men drove up to the bank in a car that had been stolen the day before. One waited in the car while the others entered the bank, ordered the occupants up against the wall, and demanded money. As they left, one fired a shot into the ceiling. They then drove off in the waiting car, which was later found abandoned.

Times



esidents  
ere of youths also  
but police prevented  
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# Arafat demands Israeli pullout by April 13

JERUSALEM (AP) — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said yesterday he insists on an Israeli pullout from the Gaza Strip and Jericho by April 13.

It is imperative that all Israeli troops evacuate those areas by that date, and we insist that the date of the self-rule agreement be respected," Arafat told reporters before he left Amman for Cairo.

The Israelis have already started to evacuate some of the military bases in Gaza and Jericho and we hope that Palestinian police forces will soon take control of these areas," Arafat said.

But he complained that he has not been "officially notified when to send our police forces to take over these areas and we hope to have an answer soon."

Arafat, who arrived here yesterday, said he "briefed his majesty King Hussein on progress in our negotiations with Israel in Egypt and we discussed consolidating Palestinian-Jordanian coordination."

He said that he and the king agreed to reactivate six joint committees which were formed in July, but some have not yet held their first meeting. They include border and security, economic cooperation, water sharing, laws and regulations, refugees, and Jerusalem.

Arafat also said that Hussein has offered to send Jordanian experts to aid the PLO in negotiations with Israel on economic and monetary issues.

## Jewish, Arab extremists barred from Temple Mount

JEWISH and Arab extremists will not be allowed on the Temple Mount, Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yehuda Wilk said yesterday.

"There are specific people that we will prevent from entering the Temple Mount," Wilk said at a news conference. He declined, however, to give names.

"We are not differentiating between Jewish or Arabs," he added, in answer to reporters' questions.

Anyone who plans to enter the Temple Mount for the purpose of incitement will not be allowed to enter."

Moslem leaders on Monday reopened the Mount to non-Moslems for the first time since the Hebron massacre. They had closed the area to non-Moslem visitors on the grounds that Jewish extremists supposedly planned an attack on the Temple Mount.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert yesterday expressed support for the new police policy. He spoke to reporters after meeting with Wilk on security matters.

Wilk, who has a law degree, said the policy was upheld in several High Court decisions, including the recent petition to enter the site by Temple Mount Faithful leader, Gershon Salomon.

Olmert, meanwhile, reiterated his opposition to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat visiting the Akasa Mosque on the Temple Mount, saying such a visit would incite unrest.

Olmert said he supports freedom of access to the Temple Mount for religious reasons, but not for the purpose of "political demonstrations."

## Beduin protest plans to build neighborhoods without sewers

THE Beduin community is protesting plans by the Israel Lands Administration to build new apartments in Beduin towns with cesspools instead of a modern sewerage system.

Efrahm Babal, head of the ILA's Beduin section, has submitted a request to the Interior Ministry, saying the construction of new homes could be held up for years if sewers had to be built first.

"Illegal building will continue, he said, if the authorities do not allow construction of the units. He asked the ministry to allow an interim period of three to five years in which building could take place.

Nuri Ubbi, a Beduin leader, sent a letter to the Interior Ministry in response to the request, asking the ministry to summarily reject the ILA's plans.

"It is inconceivable that a Jewish neighborhood would be built without a sewerage system," he said. "Beduin towns are deprived in many ways, lacking proper infrastructure such as roads, sidewalks, lights, and sewerage systems."

The government has built many new neighborhoods in the south for Jewish immigrants in the past few years, all of which have sewers, he said.

"There is no reason why a Beduin neighborhood should be established without a sewerage system," he said.

## Contractor suspected of tax evasion released on NIS 100,000 bail

A CONTRACTOR was arrested and released on NIS 100,000 bail by Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday, following a raid by tax authorities in which scores of contractors were detained on suspicion of tax evasion.

Judge Zecharia Caspi also barred the contractor, Avraham Barbie, 33, from leaving the country.

Barbie, a Ramle resident, was arrested at a building site at the city's Neveh Hadarim neighborhood in the Tuesday raid.

Investigators found documents in Barbie's vehicle indicating he received cash payments from clients for building services, and had failed to declare a large part of his earnings to authorities. He allegedly failed to declare about NIS 100,000.

Police detective Yosef Spiro said in court that authorities have concrete evidence against Barbie, but did not object to his release on bail. More arrests are imminent, said Spiro.

## Channel 2 accuses Channel 1 of showing commercials

ITV's Channel 1 is illegally running commercials, according to a letter sent from Reshet, one of the three commercial New Channel 2 franchise holders, to Israel Broadcasting Authority heads.

The letter sent by Reshet lawyer Hanan Melitzer to IBA director-general Mordechai Kirschenbaum and IBA chairman Micha Yonon claims the public channel is running commercials in the guise of sponsorship announcements with product names.

The complaint cites several companies whose names appear in one form or another on sponsorship announcements, including the Makafet Savings Fund, Zion Insurance Co., and Hamashbir LeZachan.

Melitzer also takes to task examples of what he called "open advertising," such as the "white" ad by the Dairy Board, and subliminal advertising, such as using a specific car in a police public service announcement.

Reshet demanded an end to these announcements and threatened legal action.

Yonon said in response that ITV does not intend becoming a commercial station and acts within the law.

"One of the founders of the public service announcement field here is today the joint director of Reshet, Yohanan Zangen," he said. If there were any irregularities, they were not intentional, Yonon added.

"However, we do not intend giving up the source of income from public service announcements," he said, noting that the income had been harmed by the start of the commercial station — which also runs public service announcements. Since the New Channel 2 took to the air in November, there has been a 10 percent drop in the number of announcements on ITV's Channel 1, he said.

## 25 Beersheba drug dealers busted in raid

AMIR ROZENBLIT

TWENTY-FIVE drug dealers, fingered by an undercover agent, were arrested in an early morning raid by police in Beersheba yesterday.

The raid followed an intensive five-month investigation, including the use of a former junkie as an undercover operative, directed by Chief Superintendent Yossi Koppel, who also led the raid.

Over this period, the undercover agent purchased 680 doses of heroin from various drug dealers, all of them well known to police. All the purchases were tape recorded.

At about 1 a.m. yesterday, police simultaneously raided dozens of apartments in Beersheba, arresting 25 of the 30 targeted dealers. Indictments are now being prepared against them.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Jaffa man dies crashing into store**  
A Jaffa man was killed yesterday when he lost control of his car and drove into a video store on Rehov Yafet. Three of his passengers suffered light to moderate injuries.

The accident occurred when Ibrahim Muslim, 34, lost control as he tried to pass a car and then crashed into a store on the opposite side of the street.

Police suspect he may have been intoxicated.

**X-ray technicians to strike**  
Some 1,000 X-ray technicians throughout the health system are to go on strike this morning.

According to Dalia Klishevsky, director of the paramedics' organization, the strike follows Treasury rejection of the technicians' salary demands. She said that after five months of talks, the two sides have reached a dead end.

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**Thursday April 14 Independence Day**  
JOSEPHUS FLAVIUS - TRAITOR OR PATRIOT? We take a historical trail with The Jewish Wars in our hands, and with the help of archaeological finds check out the man who led the revolution in the North and then fled to the other side. What really happened in Yodfat? How do the new Zippori findings shed light on Josephus? Lunch. Tour guide - Yakov Shechter NIS 145

**Thursday April 28**  
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**Wednesday May 4**  
THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING Some say, "It's music frozen in time." The architecture of public buildings should be a reflection of the society in which it is born. Is it so? We'll also visit The Mormon University, HU Mt. Scopus campus, and the new Jerusalem Town Hall complex. Lunch. Tour guide - Architect David Kroyzner NIS 130

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Women in Green stage a demonstration yesterday while Prime Minister Rabin testifies behind closed doors before the Shamgar Commission of Inquiry. (Ephraim Kishon)

## Rabin's testimony concludes Shamgar Commission hearings

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin testified yesterday for nearly five hours before the Shamgar Commission of Inquiry into the Hebron massacre.

Rabin's testimony, in his capacity as defense minister, was given behind closed doors, at his request.

The prime minister arrived at Hall 3 of the Supreme Court accompanied by his legal adviser and cabinet secretary, Elyakim Rubenstein, and did not make any statement to the media. After four and a half hours, he left via a side exit.

Radio reports said that Rabin rushed from the court to his office to be updated on the Afula car-bomb attack.

Rabin was the last scheduled witness to testify before the five-member panel, which wrapped up five weeks of hearings.

Judges are still undecided whether to subpoena Baruch Goldstein's wife, Miriam, who had refused to turn up on Sunday, her scheduled day to testify.

The commission is now expected to decide which persons to warn of possible legal jeopardy as a result of its decisions. Such persons will have to appear before the commission again, but have the right to be represented by a lawyer and to cross-examine other witnesses.

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## S. Africans send more troops into Natal

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - The South African army sent reinforcements to the Zulu heartland of Natal yesterday while the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) promised elections would go ahead there despite rising bloodshed.

More than 110 people have died in Natal and the adjoining KwaZulu black homeland since President F.W. de Klerk imposed emergency laws last Thursday to halt the violence and enable the country's first all-race elections to proceed unhindered.

The army sent 700 more men in a mechanised combat force to Natal yesterday, bringing the total enforcing the emergency to around 2,000.

Defense Force spokeswoman Captain Kim van Niekerk said the army would deploy the group in the north of the province and in township flashpoints around Durban.

More troops would be deployed in the region around April 15, 11 days before polling begins.

A working committee of the IEC and the South African and KwaZulu governments issued a report on Tuesday saying that "in the current political climate, elections cannot be held in KwaZulu".

But IEC Chairman Johan Kriegler said this did not mean postponement of the April 26-28 polls for the KwaZulu-Natal provincial legislature that comes into existence at the end of the month, or for the national constituent assembly.

"What we are doing is...direct-

ing our efforts to enable as many people in that province as possible to vote. We are decidedly going ahead in Natal," he told Reuters.

African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela echoed Kriegler's remarks in Durban yesterday when he addressed ANC Youth League members.

"There is talk that the elections might be postponed in this province. Let me tell you there will be no postponement of the elections in this province. We won't postpone our freedom," he pledged.

Violence has risen in the region despite the state of emergency and the increase in the number of soldiers deployed to help police the area.

Most of the fighting, which has claimed more than 10,000 lives in the past decade, is between Zulus supporting the ANC and chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party, which is boycotting the elections.

De Klerk, Mandela, Buthelezi and Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini - who has called for a sovereign Zulu state in Natal - are due to hold a peace summit tomorrow.

Buthelezi and his nephew the king demand virtual autonomy for KwaZulu-Natal in post-apartheid South Africa.

An independent monitor of the violence, Mary de Haas, said in Durban the troop increase in Natal was better than nothing.

"But there just aren't enough troops to deal with the situation. It's too little, too late," she said.



UN commander in Bosnia, Gen. Sir Michael Rose, leaves Bosnian Serb headquarters in Pale yesterday, after his plan to travel to the embattled Moslem town of Gorazde was rejected. (AP)

## Serbs block UN commander from Gorazde

SARAJEVO (AP) - Bosnian Serbs stopped the UN commander from visiting Gorazde yesterday, and proposed more talks on a cease-fire.

Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose's attempt to personally assess the situation in the eastern enclave came after Serb troops broke through outer defense lines and fought their way to within a few kilometers of the town of Gorazde itself. Hundreds of civilians reportedly fled burning villages on the outskirts of the enclave.

Rose was stopped in Pale, the Serb headquarters just southeast of Sarajevo, where Serb officials cited "security reasons" for preventing his visit. Three UN military observers and eight British liaison officers were allowed to

proceed, UN officials said.

"We've got to accept the fact that if the Serbs say the situation is such that they don't want us to go there now, we have to accept that," Rose said yesterday - the second anniversary of the war's outbreak.

He also said that Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic had proposed a meeting with government military leaders on a new, general cease-fire. "I am now going back to Sarajevo to set this up... later today or tomorrow morning," he said.

The top UN commander in former Yugoslavia, Gen. Bertrand Lapresle, and the UN civilian chief of mission, Yashushi Akashi, also were meeting with Karadzic.

Serbs and the Moslem-led government have mostly observed a cease-fire around Sarajevo since Feb. 10, but fighting has continued elsewhere.

UN spokesman Maj. Rob Anink said earlier that Bosnian Serbs had stopped their advance on the town of Gorazde, 55 km southeast of Sarajevo, after running into entrenched defenses.

"Our assessment is that Gorazde is not in danger of falling," he said. "It is very well defended."

Bosnian government radio said Serbs continued to assault government troops defending the enclave.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug, citing a Bosnian Serb military statement, said Serb troops had occupied the village of Biljin, four km south of Gorazde, and were

fighting to "liberate Serb villages" in the area.

The Gorazde enclave is about 20 km long and 15 km wide, divided by the Drina River. The area is home to an estimated 65,000 people, many of them refugees.

A UN relief spokesman, Kris Janowski, said at least 52 people had been killed and 249 wounded, most of them civilians, in the weeklong Serb offensive.

He said the arrival in Gorazde of 2,000 refugees who fled hamlets to the south underscored the gravity of the situation.

Gorazde's capture would give Serbs a more direct route linking their holdings in southwestern and eastern Bosnia. They would not necessarily have to take the town to achieve that aim.

## China's HK allies demand explanation

HONG KONG (Reuters) - Leading pro-China figures in Hong Kong joined journalists and human rights campaigners yesterday to condemn a heavy jail sentence Beijing handed down in secret to a local reporter for spying.

Politicians and publishers more used to attacking the British colonial government, questioned whether Xi Yang, a journalist with the Hong Kong daily *Ming Pao*, had been spying.

News of Xi's 12-year sentence sent jitters through Hong Kong, which returns to China in 1997.

China-born Xi was found guilty last week of "stealing and spying on state secrets", the Beijing Intermediate Court said on Monday. His alleged accomplice, Tian Ye, a clerk at the People's Bank of China, was sentenced to 15 years.

Xi was detained in China on September 27 last year.

According to official reports, Tian Ye, under the guidance of Xi Yang, illegally provided a large amount of financial secrets. Among the secrets was information on adjustment plans for bank savings and loan interest rates.

Journalists already nervous about their post-1997 future, launched a series of protests including petitions, open letters to Chinese leaders and a hunger strike outside the official Xinhua news agency. China's de facto consulate.

But reaction to the secretive trial has spread beyond the media and human rights activists to groups traditionally allied with China.

Tsang Yok-Sing, chairman of Hong Kong's main pro-Beijing political party, urged China to show Xi had been doing anything apart from normal news gathering.

He said he doubted Beijing's interest rate policy should be a state secret and suggested the appeal court consider whether Xi had simply made a mistake.

## Blackmun retires from US Supreme Court

Author of decision legalizing abortion

WASHINGTON (AP) - Justice Harry A. Blackmun, author of the landmark Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide 21 years ago, announced his retirement yesterday.

"It hasn't been much fun on most occasions," Blackmun said at the White House. "but it's a fantastic experience which few lawyers are privileged to have."

President Clinton saluted Blackmun, the court's senior member, as judge of "majesty and reason, with scholarship and

grace" who defied all political labels.

"In stepping down from the court, Clinton said Blackmun will 'step up into our history.' He has served 24 years on the court.

Blackmun, 85, will leave at the end of the June term or when a successor is confirmed by the Senate for the nine-member bench.

Clinton discussed a successor with his staff but said only that the nomination process would "proceed in a very deliberate way."

## Germany's only Jewish paper escapes closure

GERMANY'S only Jewish newspaper has narrowly escaped closure: years after World War II victims established it as a voice for the few Jews who survived Adolf Hitler's genocide.

But the *Allgemeine Juedische Wochenzeitung*, the last remnant of a once-thriving Jewish journalistic tradition in Germany, is in poor shape, its three writers hammering away at battered typewriters because they cannot afford computers.

In February the newspaper, which has covered topics of Jewish interest from politics to cookery since 1946, appeared to be

doomed.

In recent years Germany's Jewish community has grown to 30,000, partly because of the influx of East-European Jews. But the Jewish Central Council, the umbrella group which owns the newspaper, announced its closure, saying it was unprofitable.

The plan was greeted with protests from Jewish intellectuals who called the forthrightly publication an important forum for the Jewish community and a bridge to Germans in general.

Even Rita Suessmuth, speaker of the German parliament, rallied behind the newspaper, saying silencing it would be a loss for democracy.

The council gave in and approved funding of 1.2 million marks (\$700,000) for the 1994 budget.

The *Wochenzeitung* used to be a weekly, but has been struggling to keep going and this year has appeared fortnightly.

"It's a great challenge," editor Judith Hart told Reuters in her tiny office in a Bonn suburb. "This is especially true when you think of the long tradition Jewish papers have in Germany."

In the early 1920s there were 46 Jewish weeklies alone in the

ROLF SODERLUND

BONN

country.

But Hitler's rise to power in 1933 sounded the death knell for Jewish culture - heralding the extermination of Jews themselves.

In 1946 British occupation forces authorized the publishing in Duesseldorf of the *Allgemeine Juedische Wochenzeitung*, an independent voice for the few thousand German Jews who survived the Holocaust.

But with a circulation of just 10,000, half of whom pay by subscription, the journal is little known outside Jewish circles in a country of 80 million.

"It is not the Germans' fault but our fault because we have perhaps not done enough to make our product known," Hart said.

The central council is planning an advertising campaign to promote the *Wochenzeitung*, the result of which will be analysed later this year.

Despite its small circulation, neo-Nazis seem to be well aware of the newspaper's existence, judging by the flow of antisemitic hate mail it receives.

"They are upset because they

think the Jews have so much influence here and that there are so many of us. They regret that Hitler was not successful in his plans. It's the usual," Hart said with a grimace.

"These are prejudices. They will not go away. They are inherited from generation to generation."

She said the newspaper had covered the rising neo-Nazi violence in Germany since unification in 1990 "to make it clear that the Jews are not silent but have an opinion."

In one of its latest editions, the newspaper carried a report on a study by the respected Emnid Institute showing that one in five Germans don't want a Jew as a neighbor.

The survey was published less than a week after the premiere in Germany of *Schindler's List*, Hollywood director Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning film about the Holocaust.

The film about the German businessman who rescued Jews by employing them in his factory was reviewed in the same edition.

It also reported on Jewish-related events ranging from the massacre of Arab worshippers in Hebron to a meeting of members of

the Rothschild banking family in Frankfurt.

Family pages report on births and deaths in the Jewish community. There are recipes for meals for Jewish holidays and advertisements for kosher restaurants and a Hebrew language course complete with cassettes.

Last month it published a crossword puzzle which called for some knowledge of Israeli history and the Old Testament.

"This is probably unique in Europe," Hart smiled. "But it is not so difficult that you could not do it."

The newspaper is trying to attract younger readers.

"We have many readers in their 70s," said Hart, who is 31. "When they die the subscription is also cancelled. We have to find a way to reach the younger readers too."

The staff journalists are Jewish, but the newspaper also relies on reports from non-Jewish freelance reporters.

"There are not that many Jewish journalists for us only to work with Jews. We also work with non-Jewish journalists and this is the way it should be," Hart said. (Reuters)

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## Britain and IRA allies deny peace dialogue

BELFAST (Reuters) - Britain and the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein denied yesterday they were secretly in touch on the first day of a 72-hour truce designed to make them do just that.

Northern Ireland stayed calm as the IRA's Wednesday-to-Friday ceasefire, the first for 19 years barring Christmas goodwill gestures, held firm.

Sinn Fein handed a letter to British Prime Minister John Major's office yesterday, urging him to authorize direct talks to clear up their questions about an Anglo-Irish declaration aimed at ending 25 years of violence.

But party spokesman Tom Hartley dismissed a claim by Peter Robinson, of the mainly Protestant Democratic Unionists who vow never to end Northern Ireland's union with Britain, that such talks were already under way.

"I am not aware of any contact that the British government is having with Republicans (hard-line Irish nationalists)," he told a news conference in London.

Britain admitted last year secret contacts with Sinn Fein had gone on for more than two years but claims they are now over and will not be resumed.

"The government position is clear. We are not negotiating with them and we are not going to clarify the declaration," a spokeswoman said yesterday.

The declaration offers talks to Sinn Fein, currently ostracized because of its IRA links, but only once the guerrillas lay down their arms for good.

Robinson accused the government of lying. "This prime minister is not a prime minister

who is going to stand up to the IRA," he said. "The government's programme is to end violence by surrendering to the IRA. That is what the declaration set out to do."

"I believe they are already having contact through an intermediary," he said.

Recognition from London, via face-to-face talks, is of more symbolic importance to Sinn Fein than actual clarification of the December declaration.

British Prime Minister John Major has dismissed the three-day truce as an inadequate and cynical gesture.

But Robinson, echoing fears widespread throughout Northern Ireland's Protestant majority, said he believed a secret deal with the IRA would eventually be done.

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## A raconteur whose punch line is the Holocaust

Lisa Lipkin, whose mother survived Auschwitz, tells Holocaust horror stories with a comic twist, Sheri L. Allen reports

**STORYTELLER** Lisa Lipkin comes across as a breezy, hip New York comedienne.

Until she mentions Auschwitz. "When I was a kid, I used to take the subway into Manhattan and imagine I was going to Auschwitz. But don't worry," she says with a wave of the hand, "I always got off at Macy's."

Lipkin, 33, is the daughter of a Czech-Hungarian mother who survived Auschwitz and a Jewish American father whose family came to the US in the 19th century.

Her one-woman show is an hour of anecdotes and insights expressing the poignant absurdity experienced by children of Holocaust survivors.

"Fitting in was very important," she says. "We bought only American cars, because they don't stand out. My American name, Lisa, is so common it's anonymous."

She pauses. "In school, I looked just like all the other kids, but there was one difference. While the other kids were dreaming about the future, I was dreaming about the past. My mother's past."

Several members of an audience of about 30 people this week at the David Yellin Teachers' College in Jerusalem nod knowingly.

While the other kids played, I was imagining that at any moment a huge man in black boots would burst the door down and shout, 'Get down!'

When I was around three, my mom and I were walking down a street in our town and we passed a factory. She pantomimes the upstretched arm of a very small child.

"All of a sudden my mom squeezed my hand really hard. She got this frozen look on her face. 'Mommy, what's the matter?'

"There are faint groans of identification.

"When I was growing up, camp didn't mean summer camp. There are faint groans of identification.

"The original question was posed by the respected research firm Roper Starch

"I was among the most startling and widely reported survey results of 1992. One out of five Americans — 22 percent — doubted that the Holocaust had occurred, while another 12 percent said they weren't sure."

A third of all Americans disputed the historical truth of the Holocaust? Astonishing. The results were reported with appropriate dismay in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Globe* and the *Chicago Tribune*.

But a recent test of the question that produced those numbers has led some researchers to suggest that the original question was seriously flawed and the results open to considerable doubt.

In fact, the test by the Gallup Organization suggests that the true percentage of doubters was closer to 10% and probably even smaller — not 34%.

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Lipkin: While the other kids were dreaming about the future, I was dreaming about the past. My mother's past. (B. Smarten)

"MY FIRST boyfriend, Ronnie, also had parents who were survivors. He and I never kissed, we just sort of energetically hugged in a corner of the Jewish Y in Passaic, New Jersey."

She mimics an awkward adolescent bear hug, rolling her eyes pointedly.

"His dad was a character. He had survived a labor camp by sneaking into the kitchen to peel potatoes when he was supposed to be hung."

"One day we were all in the car on the New Jersey turnpike and Ronnie's dad was driving. There was a police roadblock up ahead on the highway and all the traffic was backed up. All of a sudden we're off the road and rolling down into a ditch."

Her tone softens. "He stopped the car and our parents told us kids to get down. Face down onto the floorboards. Then someone got an old canvas cover out of the trunk."

"They covered us with it while Ronnie's dad went up to the cop and talked his way out of the roadblock."

Lipkin's gift is her ability to evoke the fear and insanity of the Holocaust. One story in particular had the entire audience expressing their identification.

"When I was around three, my mom and I were walking down a street in our town and we passed a factory. She pantomimes the upstretched arm of a very small child."

"All of a sudden my mom squeezed my hand really hard. She got this frozen look on her face. 'Mommy, what's the matter?'

"There are faint groans of identification.

"When I was growing up, camp didn't mean summer camp. There are faint groans of identification.

"The original question was posed by the respected research firm Roper Starch

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## Shadow of a sister I never had

Elaine Kalman Naves grew up with the knowledge that had some members of her family survived the death camps, she might not have been born

**M**Y sister Evike would be 56 this April. Given her precocious intelligence and sensitivity, she might have been a physician, writer or philosopher. Perhaps she would have chosen creative domesticity. By now she could have been a grandmother many times over.

My sister Evike is six, forever frozen in childhood on my bedroom wall in the photographs I grew up with in Budapest of the Fifties. She had large gray eyes, light brown hair beneath which her ears peeked out elfin-like, just the way mine did. And she took gawky, uncompromising stances, locking her slightly bowed legs — which my mother, who was not her mother, said were exactly like mine. Next to her in many of the pictures stood our cousin Marika, a golden-haired beauty, the two six-year-olds dressed in identical white rabbit-fur coats, muffs and hoods.

My sister Evike celebrated her sixth birthday one month to the day after the German occupation of Hungary: March 19, 1944. On that day her mother wrote my father (then in a labor camp) about their preparations to move into the ghetto town of Kisvarda where Jews of the nearby villages were being grouped for deportation.

"Even wedding rings have to be given in. You will buy me another someday if, God willing, we meet again. Today is the darling child's birthday, we congratulated her in tears and I wish that she will attain all her future birthdays under happier circumstances."

Seeing the grown-ups packing, Evike made up a little parcel of her own for books and her teddy bear Gusti, named after my father. Though she had never gone to school, she had taught herself to read and write using the daily newspapers. Now she wrote my father, in block capitals running together. DEAR DADDY. YOU'LL NEVER GUESS. GRANDMOTHER MADE SCRAMBLE EGGS AND BIT-ONSOMETHING HARD. IT WAS MY TOOTH. I LOST MY FIRST TOOTH.

These letters, along with hundreds of others from his large family, my father would keep and carry about with him, as precious mementos and talismans, not only for the duration of the war but for the rest of his life, part of the paraphernalia of remembrance which became his code of honor.

In the Budapest apartment where I grew up, Evike's mother Mancika gazed down pensively from one of the walls; on another reigned a wedding picture, with a

younger, fuller-haired version of the father I knew in a tuxedo. Mancika regal on his arm in floor-length white.

MY EARLIEST memories date from the time when, like Evike, I was six and my father and I walked to the playground at the end of our street. On the way there, he told me stories — gentle, pastoral tales about the family farm where he had grown up and the personae of his first life, stories of my grandparents and uncles and aunts, stories of Mancika and Evike.

I don't remember him ever telling me that these people were not alive. He didn't have to tell me. I knew. I knew that they had been killed sometime before he met my mother and had miraculously fallen in love again and had another child. I knew that they had been murdered because they were Jewish. How they had been murdered I also knew, but I don't ever remember him telling me that either.

Though my interest never flagged in hearing my father's stories, my behavior spoke of their impact on me. He was frequently away on business and was my mother who bore the brunt of my tantrums, my mother whom I tortured with the hurled insult, "I wish Mancika were my mother and not you!"

If Mancika had been my mother, Evike would have been my true sister. Because at bottom I always understood that, despite our common ears and legs and our shared father, she wasn't my true sister. For me to be me, the dead had to stay dead. Had they lived, I would not have been the "I" I was.

Whose child would I have been — that of my mother and her first husband, or of my father and Mancika-on-the-wall?

Perhaps I would never have been born at all.

When I was in my 20s and 30s, I used to fault my father for having prematurely burdened me with knowledge that robbed me of a carefree childhood. Why couldn't he have waited until I was older and more ready to "cope with" such knowledge? Then I read about children of Holocaust survivors who blamed their parents for just the opposite: that they were never told about the shadow families of their parents' first lives and that these ghosts haunted their childhood through their very absence.

Gradually I came to realize that there's no right way that this information can be passed on, no right



My sister Evike is six, forever frozen in childhood on my bedroom wall in the photographs I grew up with in Budapest.

moment at which it can be healthily swallowed.

Only now, three years after my father has gone to join his first family in that little corner of the afterworld that belongs to the Jews of his village, do I begin to have an inkling of why he, who sheltered and cosseted me in innumerable ways, was compelled to tell me about Evike and the rest of his loved ones precisely when he did.

When I was six, I was the age of that Evike, whose name he could still then bear to pronounce, was taken from him forever. With my bow legs and stick-away ears and

insatiable curiosity I must have reminded him in some small measure of that first precocious daughter, to whom, with time, he would refer to only as *the child*.

For him to talk about her with me must have been to bring her to life for at least the duration of the walk to the playground.

As I outstripped her in age and growth, I buried her for him stage by stage, till all that remained sharp of her was the pain.

The writer was born in Budapest and now lives and writes in Montreal.

## US pollsters ask confusing question and get confusing answer

The results of a survey on whether Americans believe the Holocaust occurred may have been misleading because of confusing language, Richard Morin writes

Worldwide for the American Jewish Committee.

The question read: "As you know, the term Holocaust usually refers to the killing of millions of Jews in Nazi death camps during World War II. Does it seem possible or does it seem impossible to you that the Nazi extermination of the Jews never happened?"

Researchers for Gallup, a Roper competitor, said the wording of the question was confusing.

"First, there was a double negative: Does it seem impossible... never happened," Newport said. "It was a lot for a respondent to hold in their heads. Even when you look at the question in writing, it's hard to come to an answer."

"Then the question used the word 'extermination,' which some people could have construed meant that all Jews were eliminated, which was not the case," Newport said. "The third issue is that some might have construed the word 'impossible' to mean beyond the pale of humanity, not that it did not occur."

GALLUP DECIDED to fund an experiment. They posed the Roper question to half of 1,010 randomly selected adults, and then this simplified version to the other half: "Do you doubt that the Holocaust actually happened, or not?"

When asked this way, 9% said they doubted the truth of the Holocaust. Another 4% said they were unsure. Together, they amount to about one-third of the percentage who seemed to doubt the existence

of the Holocaust in the original version.

Gallup also found that even those who seemed to express some doubt were not so much denying the existence of the Holocaust as admitting ignorance.

ROPER AND the AJC currently are mounting their own exhaustive survey with a new Holocaust question that eliminates the double negative. Results are expected to be available later in the spring.

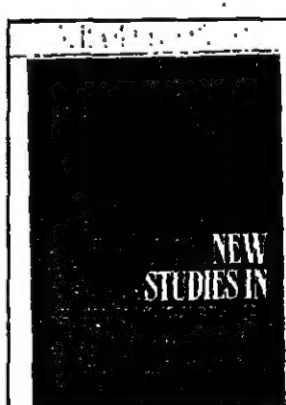
"We are going to see what kind of response we get by asking the question in a somewhat different way," Singer said. "It's theoretically possible that the double negative led to some confusion. On the other hand, we asked the identical question using identical wording in England, France and Germany and the percentages were much less [between 5% and 8%], which leads me to think that people in these countries clearly understood the question. That doesn't, however, answer the question for the United States."

Whoever's right, one thing is clear. When the survey result defies logic or common sense, it's wise to proceed with caution.

As with the hard sciences, the rule should be: "Replicate, replicate, replicate," Newport said. (The Washington Post)

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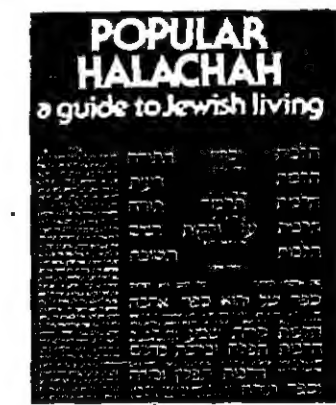
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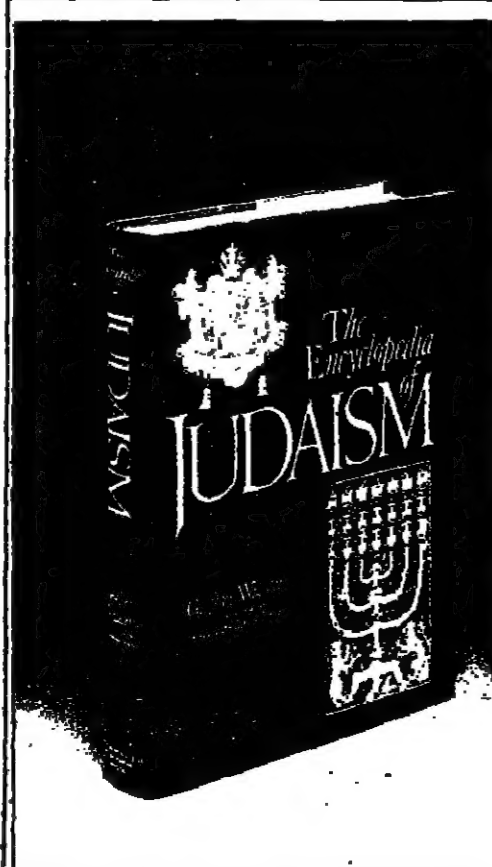
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## Terror and the process

If there is anything more predictable than terrorist acts in this country, it is the political reactions to them. When the Likud was in power, the opposition pounced on every stabbing as proof that the government's slow pace in the peace process doomed Israel to permanent war. Since Labor and Meretz became the government, Likud leaders have been blaming government policies, particularly the agreement with the PLO, for murderous attacks. The public has gotten used to both sides routinely exploiting the bloodshed. But it would be nice if at least they suspended the rhetoric until the wounded got to the hospital.

Not that acts like yesterday's car-bombing in Afula can be ignored in the political equation. Terrorism may not endanger the security of the country, but it can have far-reaching consequences. On the immediate level, it affects Israel's quality of life. It can also have an adverse impact on the country's economy by discouraging tourism and investment. And, above all, it can - as it has done in the past - spiral into an all-out war. Clearly, if a peace agreement cannot bring an end to terrorism, its purpose must be questioned.

The standard government response to questions about terrorist acts is that terrorism has occurred before the Oslo agreement and can therefore not be attributed to it; that the perpetrators of terrorism, "on both sides," are the enemies of peace, not the people negotiating for peace; and that the PLO cannot be blamed for not curbing terrorists, because the organization is not yet in control of any part of the country - its true test can only come when it becomes the ruling power in Gaza and Jericho.

That terrorism is endemic to the region is hardly startling news. But surely the government must have expected at least the cadres loyal to Yasser Arafat to abide by his commitment to eschew, denounce, and combat ter-

rorism. This has not happened. Since the handshake on the White House lawn, Fatah has been implicated in over 30 terrorist incidents, causing at least three fatalities. The most recent was the ax-murder of a 70-year-old construction worker, intended to serve as an initiation rite to the Fatah Hawks.

It is, then, misleading to describe today's terrorists as a group of opponents of the peace process who are trying to undermine it with acts of violence and horror. Even strikes of the Islamic Jihad and the Hamas are not intended to sabotage the negotiators, but to complement their efforts. Despite occasional feuds and fights over turf, the working understanding between the Islamic fanatics and the Fatah is apparent throughout the territories. The underlying idea is that in negotiating with a democracy, especially one as sensitive to loss of life as Israel is, the best strategy is to shoot while talking. The more deaths are inflicted the more the impatience for peace and the readiness to make concessions grow.

The PLO negotiators do not, then, have to worry that terrorism would prompt the Israelis to abandon the process. On the contrary. Every bloody incident evokes cries of "let's not hand the terrorists a victory by halting the talks; let's instead hasten their conclusion."

Indeed, the government is so intent on pursuing the current process that it is doubtful even the most heinous terrorist acts will affect it at this point. But since none of the terrorist organizations intends to shun violence even after power in Gaza and Jericho is transferred to the PLO, it would be helpful to know until when the government intends to excuse the continuation of the Palestinian "armed struggle." If the rationalization is to continue until the PLO achieves its first goal - the establishment of a Palestinian state with a capital in Jerusalem - or beyond, Israelis have a right to wonder why the negotiations are called a peace process.

## Scared of truth

In most countries that value a free press, a journalist's scoop is an everyday event. It releases valuable information to the public, enhances the publication, and wins plaudits for the enterprising reporter. An exclusive story has just cost Hong Kong economics correspondent Xi Yang 12 years of his life. On assignment to Beijing, he fell foul of a regime that has jailed him because it deems interest rates and banks' loan policies to be "major state secrets."

The myth of China's liberalization has been laid bare by the jailing of Xi Yang and the arrest yet again of democracy campaigner Wei Jingsheng yesterday. Wei is suspected of "new crimes" according to officials. No doubt the crimes are as heinous as those for which he has already spent 15 years in prison - such as preaching his refrain that "people should have democracy. If they ask for democracy, they are only asking for something they rightfully own." Theories that China's free-market reforms would lead to free-thinking democracy have always been flawed and are no more than convenient blinkers for those rushing greedily to a vast marketplace.

But as long as the Communist Party hacks retain their grip, the new wealth flooding into China merely feeds a python strangling the nation. Wei himself recognizes the dilemma and has written that he knows the potential of China's vast market is very seductive. "But, if investors fail to invest in helping the rational forces of democratic reform and instead leave

China's fate in the hands of reactionary autocrats... then this is not merely harmful to the interests of the Chinese people - it is also harmful to the interests of the businessmen who have invested in the China market themselves."

US efforts to link human rights reform in China with trading rights is a noble if increasingly forlorn attempt to do the right thing. But in the real world, there is no contest between business and political idealism. As happened recently in the case of Vietnam, US businessmen simply will not buy the real estate that is labeled the moral high ground. An editorial in this week's official Chinese *Outlook Weekly* lauded US businessmen fighting for China's Most Favored Nation (MFN) status, which President Bill Clinton must decide on within two months.

Economics may now be the dominant engine driving international relations, but that is no reason to underestimate the power of morality. If China's leaders are so self-confident in their power, why do they wince when reminded of the fifth anniversary this week of the Tiananmen Square massacre? Lena Sun, the correspondent for *The Washington Post*, was questioned by police on Saturday "after taking pictures in a graveyard without authority." A regime that considers one pamphlet-writer like Wei Jingsheng a potent and dangerous threat, and thinks the publication of interest rates merits a 12-year sentence, is a regime that is running scared of the truth.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir - The Jewish people have always refused to accept seemingly inevitable situations, choosing instead to forge their own destiny against the highest odds. I found it astonishing, therefore, that *The Jerusalem Post* should print an article making statements that the health situation of the Lubavitcher Rebbe was untenable. The tone of the article is in direct opposition of the traditions of Judaism.

Whereas Christianity advocates acquiescence and faith above all else, and Islam literally translates as "submission to the will of God," *Yisrael* means "he who wrestles with God." In the same way that Abraham pleaded with God for the lives of the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah, and in the same way that Moses refused to accept that the Israelites should be obliterated for their building of the Golden Calf, as religious Jews we follow their example by challenging fate and praying for the Rebbe's recovery.

Sir - After reading Adina Hoffman's film review of March 28, I found myself wondering whether, indeed, she had read *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

In correction of Ms. Hoffman's description of the story, let me say that Mary Lennox's parents were not killed in an earthquake in India, but died of the cholera. She

### THE REBBE'S HEALTH

Even supporters and friends of Lubavitch have criticized us for speaking confidently of the Rebbe's recovery, rather than making preparations for his succession. They contend that the Lubavitch movement is living in a dream world, and that by neglecting reality, our movement will suffer from lack of preparation for what is inescapable. Thus, a movement which has carried the flame and hope in a Messianic awakening, in a perfect world free from death and suffering, is being criticized for not making peace with death, for not humbly submitting to its inevitability.

Surely a much better reaction to the Rebbe's ill health would be for the Jewish people to collectively beseech the Creator for the recovery of a man who has almost singlehandedly sparked global Jewish revival, bringing untold millions of Jews to a greater de-

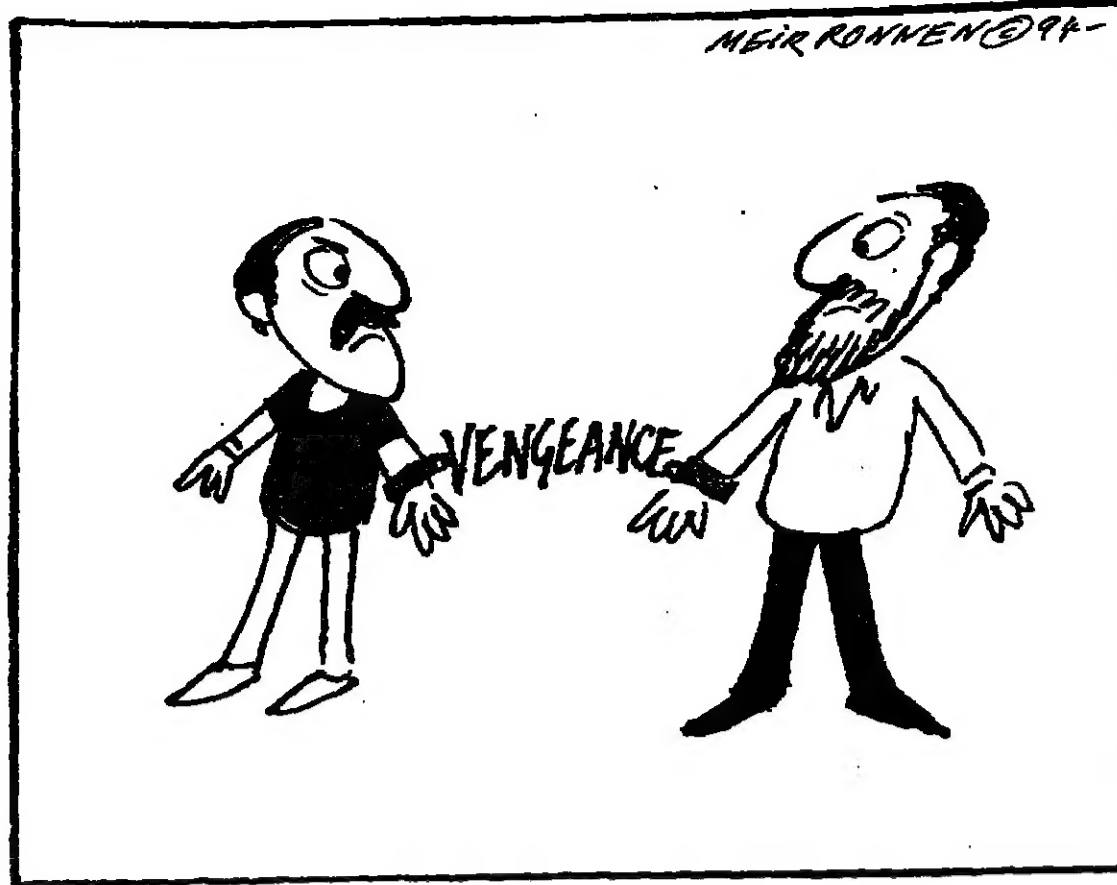
gree of observance and giving them pride in their identity and traditions. Rather than indulging in amusing speculation about the Rebbe's succession, should we not appreciate a remarkable leader every moment that he is in our midst? This is what the members of Lubavitch are doing. We do not sit idly pontificating as to who might be next in line, having passively accepted that this special and irreplaceable man will die. I say irreplaceable because we relate to the Rebbe not as an office or an institution, such as the Presidency of the United States, but as an individual. And no person is ever replaceable. Rather, in keeping with the pillars of our faith, we continue to affirm life, confronting destiny and thundering against the heavens.

RABBI SHMUEL BOTEACH  
Director, Oxford University  
L'Chaim Society  
Oxford.

### 'THE SECRET GARDEN'

was certainly "shipped off to stay at her uncle's gloomy manor...." but Mrs. Medlock, the housekeeper of Misselthwaite Manor, was not sadistic, merely stern and, as she admitted, unused to children. Mary was not locked in her room, nor fed unappealing food, nor was she dressed in black, this according to her uncle's orders, as he

disliked mourning for children. I, admittedly, am one of those women who feel sentimental when I hear the book mentioned, and after having re-read it as an adult, I still find it charming, moving and not in the least frightening. Do read it, Ms. Hoffman. I am sure you will enjoy it.  
Kissufim. M. GOLDFARB



## Security the Yatta way

MOSHE ZAK

In his testimony before the Shamgar Commission, Police Inspector-General Rafi Peled said the police do not operate in Yatta village just outside Hebron. This was a shocking admission, which no claim of insufficient manpower can excuse as long as Israel is responsible for the security of Judea and Samaria.

The admission becomes much graver in light of the fact that this village harbors a known "slaughter-yard" for dismantling cars stolen in Israel in order to "manufacture" spare parts for sale on the open market.

It is hard to shake off the fear that, with the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, the strip will become one big Yatta, a sanctuary for infiltrators into Israeli villages.

The other side of this coin is that the refugees, the urban unemployed, and the poor neighborhoods of Gaza have been, and remain, a thorn in Israel's side. It is therefore better to get rid of the strip as soon as possible, in the view of those negotiating with the PLO.

And they add that this evacuation will pave the way to a dialogue between the two peoples, and clear the path to peace. Why should Israeli soldiers patrol the streets of Khan Yunis and the alleys of Jabalya, when Palestinian police could be doing this?

In contrast to the national consensus prevailing just after the Six Day War calling for annexation of Gaza, there is now a tendency among the public to let the strip go.

The erstwhile labor parties (Mapai, Ahdut Ha'avoda and Mapam) based their annexation proposal on the agreement of King Hussein of Jordan to absorb a large number of Gaza's refugees in parts of Judea and Samaria which would then revert to him in a territorial compromise settlement.

The growing willingness to dump Gaza has sources at both ends of the political spectrum. But the question now is not whether to get rid of Gaza, but what price

Israel is willing to pay the PLO for accepting it. That price goes up daily, and now affects Jericho, Hebron, and the vital access roads in the strip for guarding Israeli settlements.

"Peace inflation" has become so steep that any deal cut with the PLO yesterday may no longer be valid today!

The remarks by Foreign Minis-

**The question now isn't whether to get out of Gaza, but how much to pay the PLO for accepting it**

ter Peres, who praised Yasser Arafat at this week's cabinet meeting for his pragmatic approach, may represent sophisticated diplomacy to bind him more closely to an irreversible agreement.

But such praise makes things harder for Arafat in the Palestinian street. As reported at the cabinet meeting, his standing among the population in Judea and Samaria is progressively weakening.

IN ANY event, it doesn't appear as though Arafat will mourn if no agreement to implement autonomy in Gaza and Jericho is signed by April 13. He wants an immediate deployment of Palestinian police, but is not ready to take full responsibility, especially on matters in which the PLO can thereby be perceived as cooperating with the IDF.

The PLO leaders in the strip are allergic to expressions of cooperation with Israeli security forces, and prefer to talk of understandings with Hamas and the other Islamic organizations.

Arafat is convinced the Israelis are in more of a hurry to evacuate the strip than he is to enter it; that being the case, he assumes he can extort further concessions, especially regarding the defense of Jewish settlements there, and access to them.

Without intending to, Israel has made it easier for Arafat to insist on international observers in Gaza and Jericho as well as Hebron. And by endorsing the designation of the 160 observers from Norway, Denmark and Italy as a "Temporary International Presence," Israel has confirmed the PLO's interpretation of the Oslo Agreement's reference to an international force.

This contradicts the Israeli interpretation that the agreement referred to only a handful of representatives.

The observer force could serve as a barrier to Israeli forces pursuing terrorists and infiltrators after autonomy goes into effect.

Most of our public will welcome photos of the withdrawal from Gaza; fewer will feel that way about Jericho. Arafat won't object to the harassment of Israeli troops by the "children of the stones," aimed at speeding up the withdrawal.

Such actions could help him in achieving a Palestinian consensus including Hamas and Islamic Jihad. He can then carry out the plan which the police inspector-general described in a lecture to Tel Aviv-area police officers:

"I anticipate an increase in attacks in areas outside the autonomy zone in Gaza and Jericho when that goes into effect; Arafat will want to show that, where he is in charge, there are no attacks. The result will be more strikes in Judea and Samaria, Jerusalem, and the rest of Israel."

This warning by Inspector-General Peled, like his admission about Yatta, must worry the country, even as the IDF pulls out of Gaza.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

## Fighting words

MORTON A. KLEIN

KHALID Abdul Muhammad, senior lieutenant in Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan, has been at the center of controversy in recent weeks because of his verbal assaults on whites in general and Jews and Zionists in particular.

Mainstream Black leaders, Jewish leaders, and even the US Senate have expressed their outrage. What is curious is that Muhammad has been making such speeches for at least several years, yet until now he has not been widely denounced.

Back in 1992, I was in the audience at West Chester State University, near Philadelphia, when Muhammad delivered one of his racist tirades - and while the speech sparked controversy on campus, it was generally ignored elsewhere.

Listening to Muhammad's tirade was a terrifying experience. Dozens of bow-tied intimidators lined the campus auditorium where Muhammad spoke. "We didn't come here to play," Muhammad declared, explaining the guards' presence. "These men you see here, they are doctors, and they know how to operate - we want no disruptions."

Muhammad's speech was a bizarre, revisionist history lesson in which all whites, and especially Jews, are the villains in a conspiracy to harm blacks. "We are ruled and

**Jewish history shows that repeated verbal assaults lead to racist violence**

tricked by white people... here in the United States of America... we need black laws for black people." According to Muhammad, white-run schools suppress the truth about world history, that "black men and women are the fathers and mothers of medicine, math, philosophy, history, law and government."

Jews came in for especially savage attacks. "There is no evidence of Jews enslaved in Black Egypt [his term for the period of the Pharaohs]; the slavery of the Jews is a lie." At the same time, Muhammad insisted that he is not antisemitic, and that accusations to that effect are made only by "old, wicked, gray-haired Jews."

Turning to modern history, Muhammad declared that the "crimes perpetrated by Hitler against Jews" were comparable to "those perpetrated by Jews against the Palestinians." Outside the auditorium, Muhammad's deputies sold a book describing AIDS as the product of a conspiracy by Jewish doctors to inject black infants with the disease.

MUHAMMAD URGED his audience to "hate whites for what they've done to us." He went on to call for killing all whites. "There are no good crackers [whites], and even if you find a good cracker, kill him before he changes..."

The mostly-black audience cheered wildly. Muhammad then agreed to field questions - but only from black students. When one white student protested, proclaiming "My tuition dollars also paid for your talk," Muhammad thundered: "If the authorities don't remove that student immediately, then we will remove him."

In a shocking display of fear and subservience, the campus police dragged the student from the room. None of the other white students or university officials in the audience intervened. I wondered if that was what it was like during the early years of Nazi Germany, when Brownshirt thugs intimidated and terrorized their opponents.

That speech should have caused the wider community to action. Muhammad and his boss, Louis Farrakhan, should have been denounced and ostracized. Instead, there were a few mild protests, and then silence.

Paul Johnson, author of *A History of the Jews*, points out that "one of the principle lessons of Jewish history has been that repeated verbal slanders are sooner or later followed by violent physical deeds. Time and again over the centuries, antisemitic writings created their own fearful momentum which climaxed in an effusion of Jewish blood."

Muhammad should have been unequivocally repudiated by the civilized community back in 1992. But he was allowed to continue his racist preachings for two full years. How many seeds of poisonous bigotry did he manage to sow before the danger was finally recognized?

Steve Hochman, who writes about rock music for the *Los Angeles Times* and has frequently interviewed rap groups, has attributed "found Louis Farrakhan" and identifying with the radical Black Muslim movement.

The lesson for the future is clear: racist words must be dealt with swiftly and forcefully before they turn into racist violence.

The writer is president of the Zionist Organization of America.

## POSTSCRIPTS

THIS IS A declarative sentence? In America's curious new linguistic development, it may very well be.

A new syndrome, formally known as "intonational rise," informally called "uptalk," is seeping into spoken American English, leaving middle-class teens and

young adults ending sentences like questions even if nothing has been asked.

Satirists and academics are paying attention.

"People are noticing it all around the country," says Cynthia McLemore, a scholar at the University of Pennsylvania who has

spent five years researching intonational rises.

In 1989, McLemore visited a University of Texas sorority and mapped how its members used uptalk.

"I really think it's possible there's some sort of fundamental change in American English going on," McLemore says. "With all these younger speakers who are using this and not realizing it, it's become a default accent."

Some say because declarative sentences are considered assertive, uptalk highlights the insecurity of "Generation X," the post-baby boomers.

Uptalk is not always well-received, even by those closest to it. "It is really annoying," says Amy Davis, 21, a senior at the University of Pittsburgh. "I noticed it when I started school here, but I didn't realize until now that I do it, too."

With the nation linked by instantaneous spoken and visual communications, regional quirks such as uptalk can infiltrate the language rapidly.

There's a national conversation now that everybody's plugged into who wants to be. It's become the national database," said Everette Dennis, executive director of the Freedom Forum on Media Studies in New York.

Uptalk, he says, "has an incompleteness about it, and I think that matches the incompleteness of the national conversation today."

President Bush's tentative tone made uptalk familiar, with his sing-song style in phrases such as "wouldn't be prudent" and "the American people."

"It functions a lot like a gesture," McLemore says. "It may be like 'you know' to make sure attention is being paid - like saying, 'Are you still with me?'"

## PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



MASHIRO SAGAWA has something to shout about: he won the Year-End Shouting Contest in Tokyo, where participants yell out their joys and woes in throes of unbridled vocal expression. Sagawa won with: "the pants I just bought were ripped." His voice was recorded at 114.7 decibels. (AP)



## Enter boyfriend; exit granddaughter

DEAR RUTHIE  
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,  
I am an old woman, widowed for five years. My two sons have left the country. All I have is my granddaughter, who just finished the army. She is my only comfort. She lived in my spare bedroom after her parents left, but now she has a boyfriend whom she started bringing home at night. I told her I wouldn't have it, so she moved out to live with him. I think it's a disgrace, and I'm hurt and lonely. What can I do?  
Deserted and Depressed  
Caesarea

Dear D&D,  
If you cling to your hurt feelings and loneliness, you will broaden the rift between you and your granddaughter. You can make your peace with the fact that she is growing up and has a life of her own. It is certainly your prerogative to have forbidden her to entertain her boyfriend in your home at night. But keep in mind that this is what led her to move.  
Even if she has chosen to live elsewhere, she can still visit you and assist you as she did before. She will be more likely to do so in the absence of reproach.

Dear Ruthie,  
My wife is on maternity leave. In general, she is doing all right, except when I have an enjoyable day at work. Then she gets huffy and resentful. I'm afraid to tell her about a business lunch in a restaurant or an office party for fear of sarcastic remarks about how hard I'm working. I know it's difficult for her to get used to being at home all day, but I don't deserve the blame.  
Heckled Husband  
Ramat Hasharon

Dear Heckled,  
As you said, it is difficult being at home with a baby all day. Your

wife is lashing out at you for lack of anyone else to lash out at. She may also be hormonally off whack at times. Childbirth can do that, as can overdoes of diaper fumes. Your wife just wants to make sure that she is not the only creature on earth suffering from tedium. Any whiff of fun had by you triggers her envy. This is also par for the postpartum period.  
Try to include her as much as possible in the details surrounding such lunches. This may take away some of their imagined glamour. Also, encourage her to get out by herself a few times a week.

Dear Ruthie,  
My mother pressured me for two years to marry my boyfriend; now that I have, she doesn't like him anymore. She's pressuring us to have kids, but what for? She won't like them, either. Help me get her off my back.  
Down-in-the-Dumps Daughter  
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Down-in-the-Dumps,  
Just as I assume you did not marry your boyfriend in order to please your mother, neither will your uterus answer her call.  
The reason for her sudden dislike of your husband is that he has become a person in her eyes, as opposed to a prize to be won. I doubt she will have the same reaction to her future grandchildren.

As for getting her off your back: The only way you can do that is by getting up off your knees. Her needling has the desired effect on you. If you deafen your ears to it, its echo will bounce off rather than sink in.  
Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

## Surgeon's 'death' gives life to his autobiography

BOOKS  
MICHAEL CONNOR

YALE Medical School surgeon and writer Richard Selzer was pronounced dead in 1991 but fluttered back to life after 10 minutes, starting a nurse scribbling final notes on his hospital chart.

The pronouncement, so convincing that doctors and nurses had walked away from a high-tech fight to keep his heart going, came on the 23rd day of a coma caused by what was believed to be Legionnaires disease.

"The Milky Way flashed by and I was gone," Selzer, now 65, said of his lapse into coma.  
But on awakening Selzer had more than just substantial medical problems such as delirium and madness to face. He could remember nearly nothing of his coma and little of his pronounced death and awakening. He experienced none of the fireworks, brilliant white lights and out-of-body sensations reported by others whose hearts have stopped and come back.

For a celebrated writer of essays on medicine's emotional mysteries, autobiographical books, magazine pieces, horror tales and literary short stories — many with a stylistic bent towards the Gothic — these missing memories were no small matter.

Selzer's coma, heart stoppage and revival were a story, a great story, one he was not going to let get away and which he has just published as *Raising the Dead: A Doctor's Encounter With His Own Mortality*.

"The reason I wrote that book was to recapture that experience which of course I had no sensory recollection of," Selzer said.  
"I would try to reconstruct a coma. I would do it through symbol, metaphor and imagery and the few tiny memories I could retrieve."

Memories from those 23 days include a bright light, presumably a physician using a penlight in a search for consciousness. But in Selzer's coma, enriched by his literary imagination, the experience was different.

"I saw a grove of white birch trees or a herd of white-faced cattle. I remember the sensation of being confined... as though I were confined to an upper berth of a Pullman [train sleeping car] traveling endless prairies at night."

Selzer, a practicing general surgeon for decades, at first sought out his medical records in a bid to reconstruct his coma, but they were lost. By the time they were located he was well into his own literary imaginings, informed by decades of caring for coma patients.

"All day and night, silt has settled in his veins, turning him solid," Selzer wrote of Day 22 of his coma, just hours before his heart stopped.

"A slow slide of clot advances through his body. It began in the venules of the arms and legs, filled

the larger veins, the iliac, the inferior vena cava, flowing slowly toward the heart. By morning, it will have achieved the right auricle. A single muffled thump, and it will be hurled to the lungs. And there it will stay hardening into a cast of the pulmonary circulation," Selzer wrote.

AFTER REVIVING, Selzer said, he was crazy.  
And while he was physically recovering from the coma in an infectious-disease ward of a Connecticut hospital, Selzer's mind wandered over and over to ancient Egypt, Father Damien's 19th-century leper colony of Molokai in the Hawaiian Islands and a medieval abbey named for Saint Ronan on the Irish coast.

"On all sides save the one facing the sea, the abbey is enclosed by a gray stone wall. It is of such a height that the top cannot be seen for the clouds that settle upon it," Selzer wrote.  
Selzer no longer practices medicine and has in past books celebrated the cutting-edge skills of doctors, but believes the cure for his madness and fantasies came during a soothing bath administered by an Irish male nurse.

"You have been telling stories. All right, then. We'll forget about it. No looking back. I'll miss our visits to the Abbey of Saint Ronan, though," Selzer quotes Patrick, the nurse, as saying.  
"At last the sick man is lifted forth from the tub, clean, calm and sane," Selzer wrote of himself.

IN AN interview, Selzer said he remembered in detail much of his post-coma recovery, including fantasies, visitors and conversations, and dismisses critics who object to his imaginative renderings of his coma.

"I do not believe the future belongs to the constipated," he said. "I don't do case histories any more. I reinvented my coma."

Selzer said his coma, near-death and hospitalization changed him, hurting his literary imagination and making it harder to write.  
"Something with the synapses," he said, adding his physician dismisses such complaints.

But, he said, he is very happy to be alive and would never take back the first word he mumbled after his heart resumed beating: "Yes."

"Everything begins with yes," he wrote in his book.

"That is how the first two bits of energy in the universe greeted each other, collided. Boom! And yes! There was life. So it is with the resurrected."

"Once again his throat fills with the word until the pressure of it is unbearable and he cries out in the hoarse voice that sticks to his jaws... Yes! Saying yes to life, accepting once again the burden and thrill of it."

(Reuters)



One of the 900 million bicycles worldwide is taken off the road in Tel Aviv.

(Media Images)

## Back in the (bicycle) saddle

LIFE-STYLE  
DAVID LAMB

IF you left your old chrome-plated, balloon-tired Schwinn in a closet 40 years ago and haven't thought much about bicycles since, these items might surprise you:

- 900 million bicycles are in use worldwide, making the bike the prime source of transportation for most people.

- 100 million bicycles — that's three times more than cars — were produced globally in 1992.

- The number of bikes in the US has soared to 120 million. That's more bikes per capita than there are in China or India.

- Only "exercise walking" and swimming are more popular participatory activities than biking in the US.

- Over the past decade, the number of Americans who commute by bicycle has increased nearly threefold, to 4.3 million. Every state has a staff bicycle coordinator attempting to integrate bicycles into the transportation system of the future.

Why are Americans getting back into the saddle?

"The No. 1 reason people give in surveys we conduct every year is always health, fitness, exercise," says Chuck McCullagh, publisher of *Bicycling* magazine. "They've embraced the bicycle as they did the running shoe in the '70s."

ADD TO that advances in bicycle technology and comfort — and well, let some bike riders tell it. Ezra Brown, 54, heads out of his home in West Windsor, Connecticut, at 6:15 a.m. on a 10-speed Peugeot.

The 12-mile trip to Trinity College, where he is plant engineer, takes 45 minutes. His estimated annual savings in fuel: more than \$500.

"I've been commuting by bike

for about 15 years," he says. "Hartford's not bike-friendly, but the drivers are decent and courteous. When I lived in Fairbanks [Alaska], I had drunk throw bottles that shattered in front of my wheels."

"In western Pennsylvania, [people] would give me the finger and try to run me off the road with their pickups. So Hartford's not bad, but if they want to get more people biking to work, they've got to sweep the glass off the edges of the street and fill the potholes."

When bicycling was at the peak of its popularity a century ago, 400 US companies were manufacturing bikes. Today the US has only six major producers, and the industry is split into two distinct segments.

The mass retail market for low-cost and children's bikes is dominated by three US manufacturers: Huffy, Murray and Roadmaster, which are keeping a wary eye on imports, particularly from China.

The dominant manufacturers in the upscale market — Trek, Cannondale and Raleigh — have always faced keen international competition, and have staked their futures on technology, design and quality.

TREK IS a good example of the renaissance of the US bicycle manufacturer. Started in 1975 with one model and four employees working in a rented warehouse, the company has grown into a major international producer with 812 employees, 41 models of advanced design, and sales that have increased 40 percent annually since 1987.

On these busy days of the

prespring rush, up to 2,000 bicycles a day roll off the assembly line.

At Trek and other manufacturers, the mountain, or off-road, bike has captured the lion's share of the market.

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991 gives states flexibility so that federal funds traditionally set aside for highways can now be used for biking, pedestrian and transit improvements. The act, which will provide \$155 million over six years, reflects a major revision of the goals of the federal transportation program, created 40 years ago to build the interstate highway system.

One result, transportation planners say, will be more bicycle-friendly cities that try to accommodate bike commuters with protected lanes, parking facilities and access to public-transit vehicles.

Transportation experts point out that if 10 percent of car commuters switched to a combination of public transit and bicycles, the

nation's saving in fuel costs would be \$1 billion a year.

Additionally, traffic problems would be greatly reduced because 18 bikes can be parked in the space needed by one car.

Of the many companies encouraging bike commuting, Fleetwood Enterprise Inc. in Riverside, California, the world's largest maker of recreational vehicles and manufactured homes, is considered among the most innovative.

Its four-year-old program, known as "Blood, Sweat and Gears," provides bike-commuting employees with shower and parking facilities, free helmets, reflective vests, headlamps and mirrors, discounts at a local bike shop, a work area and tools to fix flats and make repairs, and a guaranteed ride home — by car — for family emergencies.

At last count, more than 10 percent of Fleetwood's 650 employees were bicycling to work.

Says Roberta Holden, Fleetwood's employee-transportation coordinator: "This isn't the answer to all our congestion and pollution problems, but it's certainly one of the strategies that needs to be considered."

(Los Angeles Times)

## Making Jerusalem biker-friendly

THE number of bicycle riders is rising sharply, according to Menahem Ben Or, owner of Fun Cycles and Sports in Jerusalem.

Everyone, including the religious sector, is getting into the act, said Ben Or, whose store is located in the haredi Har Nof quarter. "Mountain bikes are the most popular, even with the women," he said.

Ben Or, who is affiliated with the Jerusalem Bicycle Club and operates Fun Cycles, a cyclists' club for people suffering from heart disease or who are at risk for heart attack, said he and other cycling enthusiasts are trying to persuade the city to enact cyclist-friendly ordinances.

They would like the city to provide lanes for cyclists, mandate helmets and require motorists to be more careful when passing cyclists.

E.H.

## See Beijing for cheap

TRAVEL TIPS  
HAIM SHAPIRO

ISRAELCARD has announced an eight-night trip to Beijing for \$999, plus 180 of the credit card company's bonus points.

The tour is organized by Sky Hakikar Tours, whose other tours are also available in conjunction with Israelcard at a discount of \$200 for 180 bonus points.

ANOTHER \$999 package to Beijing or Bangkok (without the bonus points) is being offered by Natour. The price includes air fare and hotel accommodation with breakfast. Other parts of China or Thailand can be added for an additional fee.

OPHIR TOURS is offering a series of flights and a hotel stay to various European countries for the price of the flight and a \$47 registration fee.

The cheapest is a flight to Bulgaria, which includes three nights in a Sofia hotel with breakfast for \$397, plus the \$47 fee. Other packages are available for Amsterdam, Rome, London and Paris.

EL AL's first Boeing 747-400 is on the production line and due to begin service at the end of the month. According to the company, the Pratt and Whitney engines are environment-friendly and quieter than those on older jumbo jets. It also says each passenger can watch video programs on a personal screen.

TWA HAS begun using its new departure hall at Ben-Gurion Airport. It has also increased the number of flights weekly from eight to 12; seven of these are non-stop flights to New York.

BRITAIN'S CROWN Jewels are back on display at the Tower of London. The jewels are now in the 150-year-old Waterloo Block, which is three times larger than the previous display area.

The display shows the jewels in the order in which they are used in coronations. There is also video footage of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953. Admission to the Tower, including the Jewel House, is £7.95 for adults, £5.95 for seniors and £3.25 for children.

ALSO BACK is Michelangelo, in his room at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. The Michelangelo room was one of those damaged in a car bombing in February and is the first to reopen. The rest of the western wing is scheduled to reopen by the end of the year.

Another Michelangelo masterpiece, his "Last Judgment," is again on view at the Vatican's Sixtine Chapel. It was the last of the artist's frescoes to be refurbished.

VISITORS TO London can enjoy an exhibition of cartoons by the noted Israeli caricaturist Ze'ev. The show will be at the National Museum of Cartoon Art at 183 Eversholt Street, near Euston Station, from April 18 to May 15. It is open Monday through Friday from noon to 6 p.m., Thursday from noon to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m.

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# 'Roughing it' on the roads in style

## MOTORING

JOEL GORDIN

**NISSAN TERRANO 11.** Four-wheel drive, seven-seater, all-terrain vehicle. Manual gears. Engine size: 2,389 cc, 124 h.p.

Acceleration: From 0-100 kph in 13.2 secs. Top speed: 160 kph. Gasoline consumption: 11.75 km/l at 90 kph; 7.6 km/l in town.

Price: NIS 105,000 before VAT, NIS 122,850 with VAT.

Four-wheel drive (4wd) vehicles are often erroneously called "jeeps," regardless of who manufactured them. Jeep is actually a trade name of the American Motor Company, now part of the Chrysler Corporation.

American Motors of Toledo, Ohio, first produced a car called a "Jeep" for the US Army during World War II. The Jeep's special feature was an engine that drove all four wheels, rather than two, as in a standard car, giving greater traction on rough or muddy roads.

After the war, the company continued producing jeeps, mainly for use in agriculture. But the bulky, 4wd vehicles were imitated by all the world's car manufacturers, from the US to Japan. Eventually, affluent consumers in the US and western Europe started buying 4wd's as second cars to use as "fun vehicles" on the weekends. The spartan, military-like vehicles not manufactured by

American Motors came to be known as ATVs (for all-terrain vehicle).

The latest development in this line is the so-called "executive 4wd," which can match any top-of-the-line car in luxury finish, but is tough as a regimental sergeant-major in the outdoors.

Israelis are not slow in trying out every foreign fad. But until now, we have had either rough-and-ready cars - like the Lada Niva and Suzuki Vitara, to name two - or huge, super-expensive vehicles, like the Isuzu Trooper and Land Rover Discovery, which are more van than car when they are on the asphalt. The difference in price between the two types of vehicles can be up to NIS 50,000.

Bridging that price gap is the Nissan Terrano, which is made in the Japanese company's Spanish factory. Under an agreement with Ford, the same product is marketed throughout Europe under name Ford Maverick.

At this stage, the local Nissan importer, the Pacific Automobile Co., is selling a three-door, five-passenger, 4.1m.-long version and a 4.6m.-long, five-door, seven-passenger model. The long version costs about NIS 9,000 more. A 2.7-liter, 100 h.p. diesel

version is expected sometime this year and an automatic shift model next year. The Terrano is recognized as commercial vehicle for tax purposes.

THE TERRANO admirably fulfills its dual role of a luxury, status automobile and a tough 4wd. The outside appearance is young, trendy and sleek. On the inside, there is power steering, electrical-

ly-operated windows, side mirrors and sunroof, plush upholstery and air conditioner.

Because of the vehicle's weight, the acceleration capacity is not quite up to that of a passenger car of similar engine size. However you can't have sports-car performance in an automobile made for six and in any case, the excellent torque (engine flexibility) more than makes up for the medium

acceleration rating. The Terrano can start in third gear without shuddering, and it can overtake on a highway without any need for the driver to "stand on the gas pedal."

Despite its height, the Terrano's driver-friendliness, road-holding ability and soft suspension would due any standard passenger vehicle proud. The engine grows at the lower revs, but it's a com-

forting sound which does not grate on the ears. It quiets down once it gets going.

The off-road performance, on both dirt and stony roads and on sand dunes, is faultless. I especially liked the effortless, comfortable drive over bad roads and the way the 4wd can be engaged without the need to manually "unlock" the front wheels.

In the seven-seater version I



Nissan's Terrano fulfills the dual role of a luxury, status automobile and a tough four-wheel drive vehicle.

tested, the third and last row of seats (for two passengers) can be folded forward, for a large amount of loading space. However, although the back door opens to the side and not up, there is no access through it. Passengers can only reach the back seats by entering through the side door and climbing over the folded second row, something likely to be impossible for the aged, infirm or overweight.

The two rear passengers will not only be cramped, they'll also probably be hot in the summer: even in front, the air-conditioner is weak.

I am sure the seven-seater model - even before the automatic shift version is available - will be a strong competitor not only against the Trooper and the Discovery, but for top-class vans like the Mazda MPV.

The MPV has a spot-on split air-conditioner but does as yet not have 4wd, the yuppie buzzword, even among those who never move from the concrete jungle.

For the record, 4wd's are more expensive than standard autos to buy, insure and to maintain - a glance at the Terrano's gas consumption figures will verify that.

You'll be "overbuying" if you only use a 4wd vehicle as so many Israelis do - to tear along the beaches, endangering the lives of sunbathers.



Oberson has given his summer '94 collection a modest perspective, covering much more than the absolute essentials.



## Modesty is Gideon Oberson's best policy

ARE these really Gideon Oberson designs? Some of his faithful clients wondered when they saw his current swimwear collection.

Their amazement was understandable. Oberson's swimwear creations usually have been characterized by brevity.

Necklines plunged to the navel and backs to the tailbone, while leg sections have usually been cut

above the hip bone. Oberson swimwear was so skimpy that it was more of an adornment than a garment.

Although he hasn't entirely abandoned the idea that bare is beautiful, Oberson has given his summer '94 collection a more modest perspective, covering more than the absolute essentials.

Navels are no longer visible in most of his two-piece suits. In the mailots, necklines expose just a

suggestion of cleavage. In some cases, they don't even reach that far.

This is a decidedly different Oberson - one who shocks not because of what he reveals, but because his new cover-up attitude is so unexpected. But then, he'd

gone just about as far as he could go in cutting it fine.

Some of his more athletic styles are tempered by intriguing print motifs or stripes running every which way.

Trends which are evident in other categories of fashion have also been incorporated into swimwear. Oberson has included wrapped and draped bodices, wired and padded bras, corset lacing and sheer insets on the torso.

Heart-shaped necklines dominate the strapless creations.

Ethnic inspirations are derived primarily from Africa, although here and there one detects a hint of Spain.

Prices range from NIS 220 to NIS 300.

Oberson for men, launched for this summer, includes various options - from slip briefs to Bermuda shorts. Prices start at NIS 60 and climb to NIS 149.

## FLAIR

GREER FAY CASHMAN

## Out of the closet, into a commercial

IT'S been a big barrier - but someone had to break it.

Last week Swedish furniture chain Ikea started airing a TV spot featuring a couple of men who live together and are buying furniture. Apparently this was the first US TV spot by a mainstream advertiser focusing on a gay couple.

"This is 1994," said Ikea marketing director Peter Connolly. "There has been big commercial success with things like the movie Philadelphia. We don't think it's taking a chance to use a gay couple in 1994."

The 30-second ad, one of four new spots for Ikea, which has more than \$400 million in annual US sales, will air over the year in the four markets where the firm uses TV - New York, Philadelphia, Washington and Houston.

It airs only after 10 p.m., even though the commercial does not talk about the two being gay or about gay life-style issues.

"We recognize the sensitivity of it, since a consumer cannot choose when a television commercial comes into their home, as they can with a television show," Connolly said.

MARKETING

HARRY BERKOWITZ

depicting a divorced woman and a new one that talks about an adopted child - the gay spot takes a low-key, whimsical approach.

The ad campaign, by the agency Deutsch Inc., has been successful for Ikea, whose sales in recent months are up more than 15 percent from a year ago, according to retail industry observers. Its slogan is "It's a big country. Someone's got to furnish it."

"Here you are talking about between 10 and 20 percent of the population, and yet they are not usually depicted in commercials," said agency head Donny Deutsch. The new commercial shows the two thirtysomething men shopping at Ikea and sitting at the table in their home.

"You know, we went to Ikea because we thought it was time for a serious dining-room table," one of the two men says. "We have slightly different tastes," the other says, adding that they met at his sister's wedding. "Steve is more into country. It frightens me, but at the same time, I have compassion."

Toward the end of the commercial, the first man says the table included a leaf. "A leaf means staying together - commitment," the other says. "We've got another leaf waiting - when we really start getting along."

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation applauded the ad as a breakthrough.

"We are usually portrayed as a controversial issue rather than as people who are incorporated in American life," said Ellen Carlton, executive director of the group's New York chapter. "There is nothing more ordinary than buying furniture together."

Although other mainstream advertisers have yet to depict gay people in their ads, several have started advertising in gay publications such as *Our 10 Percent* and *The Advocate*.

American Express recently started featuring ads for travelers' checks for couples that have the signatures of two people of the same sex.

Other advertisers in gay publications include Walt Disney (for an Annette Funicello CD), Sony, Time Warner records, Miller beers, Philip Morris cigarettes, Banana Republic, Evian and Calvin Klein. (Newsday)

## OFFERS

STEREO - needs repair, plus loudspeakers. In good condition. NIS 250. 03-6417311. NS.

BOOKS - on health, yoga, psychology, etc. NIS 5-NIS 15. 03-6745447.

DR. SEUSS - I Can Read books. NIS 40; others. NIS 15; women's blouse: corduroy jeans, small size. NIS 15 each. 04-255121.

FULL SET OF CUTLERY - 42 pieces. NIS 150; new vegetable and fruit extractor for Magimix food processor. NIS 100. 03-692601. NS.

BOOKS - rich French library, for literature lovers, students, historians, Stendhal, Voltaire, Proust, Tolstoy, others. NIS 20 each; concert records, rich, varied programs, famous musicians. NIS 15-20 each. 02-636350.

LEATHER PORTFOLIO CASE - 33x45cm. NIS 250. 02-513232.

WEIGHTLIFTING BENCH - like new. NIS 300; stacks, FREE; Kroydon golf set bag. NIS 100. 02-611653.

BATTAN - BOOKCASE - 1.79m.x80x36cm., in excellent condition. NIS 300. 02-732442.

CAR SEAT - NIS 50. 02-865721.

SINGLE BOX SPRING MATTRESS - made in England. NIS 300 o.b.o. 02-617728.

VACUUM CLEANER - in excellent condition. NIS 250. 02-766036.

PANASONIC EASA PHONE - speaker phone NIS 150; set of dishes, service for 8. NIS 150. 02-432920.

NISSAN 300 o.b.o. 02-818365. NS.

PANASONIC STEREO - large, with record player, cassette, large speakers 110/220v., in good condition. NIS 300. 02-272198.

AEG VACUUM CLEANER - in good condition. NIS 300. 02-733352. NS.

MINI OVEN - dinner, temperature controls, in excellent condition, perfect for small kitchen. NIS 300. 02-722158.

PRINTERS - Toshiba P1540, 24 pin, letter quality. English only. 150v. NIS 300. 02-813627. NS.

APPLE 2C MONITOR - program, in excellent condition. NIS 300. 02-340668.

CASSETTE TAPE RECORDER - hand-held, new with guarantee, Panasonic RC017. NIS 210. 02-519676. NS.

ARMCHAIR - NIS 100; large twin bed. NIS 150; baby's crib with new mattress. NIS 50. 02-660598.

LAWN MOWER - manual, in good condition. NIS 50. 02-639759. NS.

KEEPS SNEAKERS - for girls, new, canvas, size 10M and 8 1/2 American. NIS 60 each. 02-519438. NS.

LEVI JEANS - W32, L34, in good condition. NIS 50; girl's bike, teardrop wheels. NIS 120; shopping trolley. NIS 40; bar mitzva suit. NIS 50. 02-865839. NS.

WHITE BLAZER - Anne Klein, new. NIS 125; suite house. Evans Picoe, new. size 14. NIS 70; leather shoes. 41, low heel. NIS 50. 02-816725.

SINGLE BED - with headboard, box mattress, in very good condition. NIS 250 o.b.o. 02-353615.

DESIGNER HAT - black velvet, ladies'. NIS 75; ladies' green wool cape coat, large size 16-18. NIS 75. 02-669702. 02-246554.

NISSAN 300. 02-789167. even.

COFFEE TABLE - oval shaped, teak, glass top, inlay, top condition. NIS 300. 02-883949. NS.

WANTED

FAX MACHINE - computer and printer; Lego for children. Call. 09-428985.

REFRIGERATOR - in good working condition, also other furniture. In good condition, for old family. Will pick up in Haifa area.

Nechemia. 04-382219.

EQUIPMENT - for transferring 8mm. cine film to video. Rose. 03-5262776. NS.

ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA - micro-macro, preferably 1980s with index. 03-881973. 03-5033504.

YAD SARAH'S LAUNDRY SERVICE - for the bedridden desperately needs nightwear, sheets, bedding and towels. Call Tara. 388074. Yad Sarah, 33 Yirmiyahu Street, Romema, Jerusalem.

Ad's must reach The Bazaar Basement, The Jerusalem Post, Rehov Yirmiyahu in Romema (POB 81, 9100 Jerusalem) by noon Sunday of the week of publication. Because of space limitations, ads may be held over and published the following week.

The price of each item must be stated

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

MESSAGE \_\_\_\_\_



## BUSINESS &amp; FINANCE

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1994

9

## Merrill Lynch agrees to join Salomon Bros. as lead underwriter for FEPZ

JOSE ROSENFELD

AMERICAN businessmen behind the establishment of the Free Export Processing Zone (FEPZ) announced yesterday that Merrill Lynch will join Salomon Brothers as lead underwriters for the development of the zone.

Salomon Brothers agreed to underwrite the effort about a month ago, said David Yerushalmi, chairman of the Israel Export Development Co.

Yerushalmi added that Merrill Lynch waited to join to see how the legislation establishing the FEPZ was faring.

Final FEPZ legislation is expected to be approved at the end of the month.

Yerushalmi said something is being worked out on the issue of foreign financial services that will be included in the final FEPZ legislation.

Yerushalmi has contended that

foreign financial services are essential to the FEPZ's operations, while the Bank of Israel has opposed them for fear they may undermine its control of banking activities.

The Treasury-appointed panel established to review the creation of an international financial center found last month that although it is a good idea, it is not essential to the creation of the FEPZ.

Yerushalmi said that "we've turned the corner", and the final bill will include foreign financial services language to the liking of all parties, including the Bank of Israel.

The Israel Export Development Co. expects to develop the FEPZ in eight phases, which will cost about \$150 million each. The zone will extend in an area of 1.4 million square meters and cost more than \$1 billion to develop.



David Yerushalmi: Issue of foreign financial services will be worked out. (Ariel Jerozolimski)

## Tax revenues jump 10%

Rise reflects vigorous economic activity in first quarter

JOSE ROSENFELD

TAX revenues jumped 10 percent in the first quarter of the year, reflecting vigorous economic activity, although the pace slackened somewhat last month due to seasonal factors. State Revenues Director Yoram Gabbai reported yesterday.

Last month, tax revenues totaled NIS 5.8 billion, representing a 4% real increase compared to March last year. Excluding legislative changes which have reduced the tax base, revenues increased a real 6% last month.

During the first quarter, revenues reached NIS 17.6b. When the figures are adjusted for the NIS 260 million in lost revenues due to legislative changes, they reflect a 12% increase from the first quarter of 1993.

Gabbai attributed last month's slowdown in revenue receipts to a temporary jump in tax refunds and to the closing of customs offices during the last week of the month

for Pessah.

Revenues from income taxes reached NIS 3.2b. last month, a 13% increase compared to the same period last year. Property tax receipts jumped 35% last month, reflecting the continuing brisk pace of real estate transactions.

During the first quarter, income tax revenues rose 16%.

Value Added Tax (VAT) and customs receipts fell 5% last

month to NIS 2.5b. The drop derived from the closure of customs offices at the end of the month for Pessah.

In the first quarter, VAT and customs receipts totaled NIS 8b., a 3% rise compared to the same period last year.

Excluding legislative changes and adjusting for seasonal factors, receipts actually increased 8%, reflecting economic expansion.

VAT receipts are considered a good indicator of economic activity.

## Tokyo bourse may make TASE approved exchange

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Tokyo Stock Exchange is considering making the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange an approved exchange for Japanese investors, the Israel-Japan Chamber of Commerce announced yesterday.

Tokyo's approval of the TASE is necessary for allowing Japanese institutional investors the right to hold Israeli shares in their portfolios. The Israel-Japan Chamber of Commerce initiated the process last November, when a capital market delegation it sponsored met with the leaders of the Tokyo Exchange.

More recently, TASE chairman Haim Schessel sent an official request to his Japanese counterpart to receive the approval.

In a parallel move, the chamber called on a number of Japanese investment banks and several companies traded in Tokyo to support the request.

Japanese investment banks are showing great interest in the local stock market, as well as in the shares of Israeli companies traded in New York.

According to the chamber, the Japanese interest stems both from economic considerations — such as the economy's high growth rates — and from the perceived economic benefits of peace in the region.

## Metals sector predicts 8% rise in sales this year

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE metals sector predicts an eight percent increase in sales this year to \$9.6 billion from the same period last year, the chairman of the Manufacturers Association metal and electricity division said.

Arnon Marcus said the association based its forecasts on a survey of about 105 companies operating in the field.

Marcus emphasized that last year was good for the metal industry, but 1994 will be even better.

About 64% of the metal companies surveyed said autonomy in Gaza and Jericho will have a positive impact on business in the short and medium term.

Another 15% said autonomy will have a negative impact, 13% said it will have no impact on their business and the remaining 8% had no opinion on the issue.

Marcus said the sector's exports are expected to increase 5% this year to \$2.4b. Local market sales should increase 8% to \$7.2b.

Marcus said the rise in sales will vary according to sector. Companies manufacturing for the construction sector are expected to

register an 11% growth in local market sales.

He said the forecast is based on expectations that the construction sector will continue to expand, particularly public sector and industrial construction.

Last year, companies associated with the building sector reported a 4% growth in sales.

Metal firms associated with the consumer product sector predict an 8% growth in local market sales this year, according to the association.

Metal product sales to the industrial input and subcontracting sector are also expected to grow 8%, mainly as a result of economic expansion.

Metal product sales to the vehicle spare parts sector are expected to grow 9%.

Marcus said investments will grow 7% this year to \$470m.

The number of those employed in the metal product industry is expected to rise 1% this year to 94,000, according to the Manufacturers Association's survey of the sector.

## Menorah reports rise in net profits

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MENORAH Insurance completed the year with a nine percent increase in net profits to NIS 25.5 million from NIS 23.3m. in 1992.

Total premiums from insurance activities rose 15 percent to NIS 756m. from NIS 655m.

Menorah's net profits from non-life insurance increased 63% to NIS 13.9m.

Menorah managing director Shabtai Angel said last year was

characterized by an adjustment of tariffs in all insurance fields.

Menorah's life insurance division also showed a growth in business and earnings.

Earnings from life insurance activities rose to NIS 32.8m. from NIS 31.3m. Total premiums from these activities increased to NIS 415m. from NIS 390m.

Menorah's life insurance portfolio was NIS 17.5b. last year. Total assets rose to NIS 2.31b. from NIS 2.08b.

Menorah's share capital, funds and reserves increased 16% to NIS 84.82m. from NIS 72.9m.

Menorah said it incurred losses of NIS 3m. as a result of the sharp drop in prices of securities on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange during the first quarter this year.

## Ministry plans to turn agricultural settlements into tourism centers

HAIM SHAPIRO

NINETEEN agricultural settlements in the next two years at a cost of NIS 19 million, according to a Tourism Ministry plan.

The 19 moshavim and kibbutzim are all located in areas in which there is already tourism.

The decision was made at a meeting of the directors-general of the Tourism and Agriculture ministries, the Jewish National Fund, the Jewish Agency and the Israel Lands Administration, all of which are to contribute equally to the project.

The villages themselves are to be asked to contribute 20 percent of the investment.

The committee established a number of criteria for the project,

the foremost of which is that a majority of the residents and the local authorities agree.

The village must also be in an area in which there is clear tourism potential, and the residents must agree to pay their part of the costs.

The investment is to pay for transforming the landscape and developing public areas, establishing a marketing framework and professional training for the residents.

Among the localities which have already been named as potential sites for such development are Givat Ye'arim near Jerusalem and the Galilee settlements of Amirim, Beit Hillel, She'ar Ya-

shuv, Sede Eliezer, Margoliot, Kallal and Kibbutz Moran.

In a related development, Tourism Minister Uzi Baram yesterday toured the Arab village of Abu Ghosh, near Jerusalem, and met with the head of the local council and local dignitaries.

The Government Tourism Corporation is to invest some NIS 10m. over the coming three years to develop the center of the village.

The purpose is to encourage the music festivals which are already taking place there and for additional infrastructure.

The ministry also plans to encourage the establishment of overnight accommodations, including in the homes of the residents.

## Hamaslul posts NIS 468.6m. net profit

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

HAMASLUL Industries (Netanya) completed the year with a NIS 468.6 million net profit after registering a NIS 652.5m. net loss in 1992.

The rise was mainly due to an increase in sales and implementa-

tion of efficiency measures.

Sales rose to NIS 17.7m. from NIS 17.4m.

Gross profits rose to NIS 5.7m. from NIS 4.09m.

Hamaslul said it is considering raising capital on the stock exchange this year.

The proceeds of the offering will be used to invest in the production lines of its rubber factory, improve its cement business and expand its real estate investments.

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## BUSINESS BRIEFS

**Meir Ezra & Son in negotiations with Gaza investors:** Meir Ezra & Son reported it is in talks to set up a food and beverage manufacturing company in partnership with investors from Gaza. Meir Ezra will control one-third of the firm's share capital.

**MIT Engineering subsidiary buys Elbit antenna division:** MIT Technology and Engineering, a subsidiary of MIT Engineering, acquired the antenna division of Elbit for \$800,000 this week. The Ness Ziona-based division produces a spectrum of computer-based military systems. According to the agreement, Elbit will transfer to MIT the entire antenna operation, including existing contracts. Elbit has agreed to refrain from competing with similar products over a three-year period and will give MIT right of first refusal for new projects in the antenna field.

**Tezra buys 10% of Serum Tech's share capital:** Tezra - A Fairchild Technology Venture has invested \$100,000 for 10 percent of Serum Tech's share capital. Tezra said it has an option to invest an additional \$400,000 to up its holdings by another 30% of the share capital. Serum has developed a method of producing human protein from goats' milk.

**Small and medium firms group encourages raising capital:** The Small and Medium Companies Association has decided to assist industrialists interested in raising capital, association chairman Dani Ben-Natan said yesterday. The association has also agreed to help industrialists establish a second stock exchange and encourage partnerships with foreign companies.

**Israel Chemicals subsidiary to set up plant in Sdom:** A \$20 million plant for producing chlorine purification tablets for swimming pools is to be set up at Sdom by Deshanim Vohomir Chumim, an Israel Chemicals subsidiary. The firm chose the site due to the lack of land in its home-base Haifa area and a veto by the Environment Ministry. Amir Rozenblit



State of Israel  
The Government of Israel

through the Government Companies Authority  
hereby announces

that it is considering the possibility of selling, to an individual investor or group of investors, certain shares held by the State of Israel in:

**SHEKEM Limited (hereinafter: "Shekem")**

All those interested in purchasing a parcel of shares representing 35% of the share capital, which gives control of Shekem (hereinafter: "the State's shares"), by means of an immediate cash purchase of the State's shares from the State of Israel, may apply to the Government of Israel through the Government Companies Authority (hereinafter: "the Authority"), according to the procedures detailed in this notice.

The necessary forms and documents for submitting the application, including the procedure for selling the State's holdings in Shekem (hereinafter: "the Sale Procedure"), and the terms for arranging an initial bank guarantee in the amount of NIS 1.5 m., which each applicant must provide as a precondition for consideration, are obtainable from: Mr. Nati Bialistock-Cohen, Government Companies Authority, Ministry of Finance, 1 Kaplan St., 7th floor, Room 749, POB 883, Jerusalem 91008, Tel. 02-317601, Fax. 02-617028.

The Sale Procedure documents and other forms are available against submission of a NIS 2,000 bank check (non-refundable), made out to the Ministry of Finance - Accountant General.

The last date for submitting applications, together with all necessary documents, forms and the bank guarantee, is May 2, 1994 (at 12 noon). The applications, in sealed and signed envelopes, should be placed in a special box at the above address, following the procedures specified in the Sale Procedure.

Applicants, as well as other parties to whom the Authority may apply on its own initiative, may be placed on a list from which the Authority, at its sole and absolute discretion, will select the parties to which it may provide further information and/or with which, if a decision is actually reached to sell the said shares, it may wish to negotiate the terms of such sale.

To dispel any doubt, it is hereby announced that this notice does not constitute any form of invitation to the general public to purchase the shares of the State of Israel in Shekem, nor an undertaking on the part of the State of Israel to sell these said shares. The purchaser(s) of the shares, if any, will be selected by the Authority, on the basis of clarifications, including negotiated terms and conditions, if it is indeed decided to sell the shares. The Authority, at its sole and absolute discretion, may conduct negotiations with any party it wishes.

The Authority also reserves the right, at its sole and absolute discretion, to extend the final date for the submission of additional applications, from time to time, as it deems fit.

The Shekem shares are listed for trading and are being traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange Ltd. Certain blocking provisions apply to the State's shares, as specified in the Sale Procedure and in Shekem's Prospectus of September 12, 1993.

The sale of the State's shareholdings in Shekem is subject to the prior approval of the Knesset Finance Committee and of the Commissioner for Business Restrictions at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. In the matter of the approval of the said Commissioner, the attention of applicants is drawn to the provisions of the Business Restrictions Law - 1988.

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# News of bomb in Afula halts rising market

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBROSO



THE market was all set for a repeat performance of Monday's trading.

There was a NIS 340 million excess of buy orders on both the Karam and the Maof markets. By noon, the Two-Sided and the Maof posted a one percent rise.

However, the news of the car bombing in Afula changed all that. By the end of the trading day, the Two-Sided had closed a bare 0.08%, while the Maof actually declined 0.19%.

The Karam Index, which closed before the bombing, rose 1.44%. Turnover was higher than in previous days at NIS 332 million.

The rises in the morning were, besides a continuation of the day before, a reaction to the rises in New York and on most international markets.

On the Two-Sided, the increase reached slightly more than 1%. Elbit and Elron rose 2% by the height of the day before closing down 0.3%. Boulos was up 3% before closing down 2.1%.

The oil exploration issues were much in demand, although rises this time were more selective than on Tuesday.

The shares of the companies connected to the Herzliya drilling rose sharply: Isramco 9.8%, Joel 6.3% and Passport 6.9%.

On the other hand, Avner declined 4.8%, Abjask fell 5.3% and Hanal dropped 4.8%.

The Ezra Group rebounded somewhat. Meir Ezra rose 5.5% and T-Bone Veal was up 2.3%, while Poseidon traded with no change in price.

Dead Sea fell 2.2% after issuing relatively poor financial reports, although it was difficult to tell if this was the result of the general trend or due to the reports.

Petrochemicals, on the other hand, rose 5.7% on the background of expectations of a rise in the price of polymers.

As in previous days, in fact ever since the end of the big declines, the only actors heard on the trading floors were the portfolio managers, while the big institutions remain amazingly quiet.

There was particular interest for the securities which will be transferred on the Two-Sided Market: Cohen Development, Tempo, Lifshitz, Gahleit, Ossif, Industrial Development Bank and Rogozin.

Dropping out of the Two-Sided Market into the Karam are Alliance, Electra, Golan, Mishkan, Leumi Warrant, Haposlim Warrant and Osem Warrant.

## FTSE rally cut short, but index still up

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - A volatile performance from Wall Street took the shine off a strong UK rally, leaving shares up but well below the day's highs. The FTSE ended up 15.3 points at 3,131.5.

FRANKFURT - German shares prices recovered in late floor trade after slipping from highs at mid-session, to close sharply higher. The 30-share DAX index ended 32.91 points higher at 2,191.20. But in late trading based on IBIS electronic prices the gain for the day was cut to 7.81 points.

PARIS - French shares ended the session higher as some operators anticipated a cut in the Bundesbank's key rates at its next council meeting on April 14. The CAC-40 index ended up 27.97, or 1.33 percent, at 2,128.22.

ZURICH - Swiss shares ended firmer, led by strong financial shares which extended gains in afternoon trading. A firmer Wall Street helped in late trading. Tuesday's strong performance in U.S. stocks had already provided a spark to ignite Swiss shares at the opening. The all-share SPI rose 14.67 points to 1,821.74.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks ended stronger but off highs as arbitrage-linked selling just before the close cut some gains made in the morning on the back of US markets' recovery overnight. The Nikkei closed up 133.53 points at 19,696.74.

HONG KONG - Stocks bounced back sharply on a technical rebound, buoyed by Wall Street's recovery overnight, but profit-taking pulled them off highs. The blue-chip Hang Seng index ended up 204.40 points to 9,234.31.

SYDNEY - A firmer bond market and strong offshore leads enticed investors back into the Australian share market, taking it to a higher close. The All Ordinaries index ended 34.1 points stronger at 2,084.1.

JOHANNESBURG - Bullion's dive below \$385 an ounce dragged related South African shares sharply lower by the close in this holiday-affected trade. The overall index was 90 points down at 4,849, the industrial index was off 48 at 5,601 and the gold index 96 points softer at 1,917.

## Dow closes higher for second straight day

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks moved in tandem with bond prices yesterday, ending mostly higher.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 4.32 points to 3,679.73. The session was marked by a certain amount of volatility, although trading ranges were relatively narrow after the recent days of wild swings in the stock market.

The only constant was the close connection between stock and bond prices.

"Stocks continue to be at the mercy of the bond market," said Ricky Harrington, senior vice president at Interstate-Johnson Lane brokerage.

Investors were uncertain, looking for direction amid the market's recent swings, said Michael Metz, investment strategist at Oppenheimer and Co.

On Tuesday, the Dow jumped more than 82 points - its biggest one-day advance in more than two years - and the Nasdaq index soared about 23 points. A turnaround in the bond market on

Tuesday helped push the market higher.

That strong performance followed seven lower or mostly lower trading days, with stocks depressed by sharply higher long-term interest rates.

Stock investors don't like to see interest rates rise because that makes share prices less appealing relative to interest-bearing investments and increases the cost of money to corporations.

Advancing issues outnumbered declines by about 4 to 3 on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,266 up, 961 down and 582 unchanged.

Big Board volume totaled 300.78 million shares as of 4 p.m. (2000 GMT), against 365.97 million in the previous session.

Among other major market indicators, the Standard and Poors index of 500 stocks fell 0.23 to 448.06, while the NYSE's composite index rose 0.25. The Nasdaq composite index, meanwhile, fell 0.33 to 750.62.

## CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

| MARK | STERLING | YEN      | Sfr      | FFr      |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| MARK | 2.517363 | 163.2944 | 2.125786 | 8.810079 |
| YEN  | 1.840525 | 0.851425 | 1.385677 | 5.612993 |
| Sfr  | 1.181442 | 0.468804 | 72.0913  | 2.404015 |
| FFr  | 0.282223 | 0.186061 | 17.7288  | 0.248870 |

Prices from 23:30 local time.

## Key Representative Rates

|           |            |        |
|-----------|------------|--------|
| US dollar | NIS 2.9940 | +0.27% |
| Sterling  | NIS 4.4072 | +0.74% |
| Mark      | NIS 1.7478 | -0.85% |

## NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

| Index         | Last    | Change |
|---------------|---------|--------|
| DJ Industrial | 3679.73 | +4.32  |
| DJ Transp     | 1051.88 | +0.77  |
| DJ Util       | 106.08  | +0.82  |
| DJ Comp       | 1210.22 | +0.22  |
| NYSE Index    | 254.30  | +1.44  |
| NYSE Transp   | 254.45  | +0.77  |
| NYSE Util     | 248.86  | +0.86  |
| NASDAQ Index  | 750.62  | -0.33  |
| NASDAQ Transp | 750.79  | -0.18  |
| NASDAQ Util   | 750.79  | -0.18  |
| S&P 500       | 448.06  | -0.23  |
| S&P 500 Ind   | 448.06  | -0.23  |
| AMEX          | 448.06  | -0.23  |

## NYSE stocks

Unchanged Advances Declines

|        |     |      |     |
|--------|-----|------|-----|
| Shares | 580 | 1294 | 961 |
|--------|-----|------|-----|

Volume up to 1000's

Volume down to 1000's

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100

Tokyo Nikkei average

Singapore Nikkei average

Hong Kong Hang Seng index

Israeli stocks in NY

NYSE / AMEX

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## Southwestern Bell breaks off deal with Cox Cable

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (Reuters) — Southwestern Bell Corp. said Tuesday it ended plans to form a \$4.9 billion cable television partnership with Cox Cable Communications.

The company said new government regulations to stem rising cable TV rates made the deal untenable since the industry could no longer generate the earnings it had expected.

Under the deal, announced December 7, SBC was to commit \$1.6 billion in capital to the partnership. Cox was to contribute 21 cable systems.

The deal was the second to fall apart since the Federal Communications Commission announced new regulations to roll back cable television rates in February.

Bell Atlantic Corp. and Telecommunications Inc. called off their \$33 billion marriage — the largest ever — because of the new rate limits and because they could not agree to terms of the deal.

The rate change "significantly hinders the ability of the partnership as initially structured to meet its growth and financial objectives," Jim Kahane, SBC's senior vice president for strategic planning and corporate development, said in a statement.

"After careful analysis of the FCC's more than 700 pages of detailed rules, we concluded that it's unlikely the cable industry can generate the cash flow we expected," Kahane said.

James Robbins, president of Cox Cable, called the decision by Southwestern Bell understandable in view of continuing FCC action against the cable business.

Cox Cable, a division of Atlanta-based Cox Enterprises Inc., serves more than 1.7 million customers in 17 states as owner and

operator of 24 cable television systems.

Cox Enterprises Chairman Jim Kennedy, in a statement, said he was disappointed at the outcome.

"The regulatory climate ... will definitely slow the delivery of advanced telecommunications networks and their services to America," he said.

When the Bell Atlantic, TCI deal collapsed in February, Bell Atlantic squarely blamed regulators for the failure of the \$33 billion merger. It said a federally mandated cable television rate cut made the deal impossible to complete.

The merger had been heralded as paving the way for the so-called information superhighway — bringing two-way voice, text and video communications into the nation's homes, schools and businesses.

The cable rate cut was aimed at rolling back steady increases in cable rates for consumers, rates that in some cases continued to rise even after the FCC instituted rate-cutting regulations last year.

At the time, Bell Atlantic officials said their ambition to build an interactive network was unbowed despite the failure of the merger.

Southwestern Bell closed at \$39.50, up 87.5 cents on the New York Stock Exchange. Cox is privately held.

Southwestern Bell has not shut the door on pursuing other cable opportunities, a spokesman said.

"Southwestern Bell is going to closely monitor the cable industry," spokesman Bob Ferguson said. "Fundamentally we think it's a good business. Given the right scenario we'll take a look at other opportunities."

## Bundesbank cuts money market rate slightly

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — The Bundesbank gingerly nudged German money market rates lower yesterday, but the tiny cut reflected a slowing in the pace of recent declines.

The Bundesbank allowed the securities repurchase rate or "repo," its leading money market rate, to drop three basis points, to 5.73% from 5.76% the prior week.

Although in line with market expectations, the cut still reinforced the German central bank's commitment to lower rates and German financial markets gained on the news. The DAX index of 30 leading shares ended bounce trade nearly 33 points higher at 2,191, and bond prices also rose.

By allowing a decline, the Bundesbank has continued a trend of gradually pushing the important interest rate lower. The "repo" — which sets the tone for other money market interest rates — is the rate banks pay for funds offered to banks by the central bank in return for a deposit of securities, which the banks agree to buy back at later date.

The Bundesbank had held the repo rate steady at 6% from December, but last month started to let it ease. The pace of the cuts has slowed in the past two weeks and analysts say this could be an effort to tip in the bud any market speculation of a discount rate cut at the Bundesbank's next council meeting on April 14, its first in a month.

The discount rate, the floor to German interest rates, stands at 5.25%.

"If the Bundesbank had allowed the rate to fall 10 basis points, then discount-rate speculation would have exploded," said Stefan Schneider, chief economist at Nomura Research in Frankfurt.

This week, the Bundesbank whittled three basis points off the repo rate, after last week's four-basis-point decline. These falls are considerably smaller than the two that preceded them of eight and six basis points.

"They could be sending an early sign that they still have room left before cutting the discount rate," said Gerhard Grebe, senior economist at Bank Julius Baer. Grebe said the repo rate could fall to about 5.40% before it would begin to put technical pressure on the 5.25% discount rate.

Many economists said the Bundesbank was likely to hold off on a discount rate cut until May, when it has access to April inflation data and March money supply growth.

The firmer dollar is likely to keep the Bundesbank from cutting the discount rate any sooner, Grebe said. The dollar vaulted above DM 1.71 this week after languishing in the mid-DM 1.60s for several days.

## Back to basics for Volvo, new chief says

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) — Swedish industrial group Volvo AB, stung by a failed marriage with French carmaker Renault, said yesterday it would in future concentrate more on its car and trucks divisions.

Chief Executive Soren Gyll, who ousted Pehr Gyllenhammar four months ago as the Renault link-up went sour, said in the company's annual report that Volvo faced a series of strategic choices.

"A series of strategic decisions must be taken to strengthen the company's industrial and financial strength."

The resources Volvo disposes of must be guided towards the company's core activities. The truck and car division must get full attention," said Gyll.

Volvo made a net loss of 3.47 billion crowns (\$346 million) in 1993, largely due to huge costs involved in dissolving the ambitious cross-ownership scheme with Renault.

The loss occurred despite a 34 percent increase in sales.

Volvo said on Tuesday that US car sales rocketed 40.2 percent in March 1994 compared to the year-ago figure.

Gyll said Volvo had to bear in mind that market conditions for its car and truck sales remained difficult.

"The sector has major overcapacity and is also, commercially, one of the most competitive in the industrialized world," he added.

# IMF warns US will have to raise interest rates to control inflation

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The IMF has warned the United States that it will probably have to further raise short-term interest rates to help hold inflation in check and keep economic growth on track, international monetary sources said.

"Further [rate] adjustments are likely to be needed to ensure a durable expansion," said one source.

That advice, also contained in the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook to be considered today, is unlikely to be welcomed with open arms by the Clinton administration, which is struggling to cope with a collapse in stock and bond prices brought on in part by higher short-term rates.

Although both markets staged a partial recovery on Tuesday, stock and bond prices are still well below levels seen just two months ago, before the independent Federal Reserve nudged short-term rates higher for the first time in five years on February 4.

The semi-annual IMF economic outlook due to be considered by the Fund's board today will not be public until later this month. The IMF has no way of forcing the United States to follow its advice, but its recommendations carry weight because of its central role in the international monetary system.

The outlook was compiled by IMF staff some three weeks ago and thus does not contain any discussion about either the most recent declines in the stock and bond markets or the Federal Reserve's second short-term interest rate increase on March 22.

But monetary sources said the Fund seems very supportive of the actions by the Fed, essentially the US central bank, in its attempt to ensure the durability of the upswing in the United States by tightening policy to head off future inflation.

With the US expansion already three years old and factories running closer to full capacity, the Fed cannot afford to take chances by holding back from tightening policy when needed, they said.

That's the mistake some industrial countries have made in the past — holding rates down as their economies picked up in steam in hopes of stoking up growth, only to find they had fueled inflation instead.

The Fed also needs to be cautious because it takes so long for changes in interest rates to affect the real economy and inflation — perhaps a year or more, the sources said.

Although the IMF does warn of the likelihood of further short-term rate increases in the United States, on the whole the Fund is generally upbeat about the outlook for the American economy, they said.

It has revised upwards its forecast for US growth this year from the 2.6 percent rate contained in its last outlook in September.

Monetary sources said the Clinton administration program to slash the budget deficit has improved America's long-term economic outlook and has enhanced the durability of the expansion.

The IMF has also bumped up its 1994 growth forecast for the industrial world, from the 2.2% rate foreseen in September, and sees continued growth in 1995, as the Japanese and European economies recover, several sources said.

But the Fund believes that Japan may need to take further action to pep up its sluggish economy and that European nations may have to cut interest rates further to help that recovery along.

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## Soccer game on Hitler's birthday called off

LONDON (AP) — England yesterday called off a soccer game against Germany scheduled for Adolf Hitler's birthday because of the risk of violence by extremist groups.

"The risks of the match becoming an unnecessary flashpoint were too great for this match to be played," Football Association chief executive Graham Kelly said.

The FA said intelligence reports indicated the match, scheduled for April 20 in Berlin, would provoke demonstrations and probable clashes involving neo-Nazis and their left-wing opponents.

"For a period of over three months since this match was moved to Berlin, we have been fully aware of the risk of disorder," said FA chairman Bert Millichip. "We hoped the risks would have receded. It appears they have not."

German soccer officials, who had pressed for the game to go ahead, expressed regret at England's decision, saying all necessary measures had been taken to ensure the safety of players and fans.

"It is with great disappointment, then that we receive today's decision by the board of the British Football Association," the German federation said in a statement.

"We stress once again that we consider the date that had been set for the game no grounds for a cancellation."

The game was originally scheduled for Hamburg but was moved to Berlin after Hamburg officials said they could not guarantee security.

Authorities feared the game could be a flashpoint for hooligans and political extremists from Germany, England, the Netherlands and other countries.

Berlin's violence-prone leftist groups pushed for the game to be canceled and called for demonstrations this Saturday. They say it is unacceptable for the game to be staged at the Olympic stadium, built by Hitler as a Nazi showcase.

## Miami snaps Knicks' win streak



MIAMI (AP) — Miami limited New York to 36 percent shooting and snapped the Knicks' 15-game winning streak with a 100-86 victory Tuesday night.

Harold Miner scored 22 points and Steve Smith 20 for the Heat, who lost seven of their previous eight games, including a 110-87 blowout at New York on Saturday.

Miami earned its 39th victory of the season, breaking the franchise record set in 1992, the Heat's only playoff year. Grant Long had 17 rebounds for Miami, which outrebounded New York 52-43.

Miner came off the bench to score 16 points in the second quarter, rallying Miami from a four-point deficit into a 56-45 halftime lead. New York closed to 63-58 midway through the third period before Miner hit six free throws during an 11-0 run that gave Miami an 86-68 lead.

Patrick Ewing led New York with 18 points and 11 rebounds.

Nets 120, Celtics 94  
Boston's 14-year playoff run came to an end as host New Jersey's reserves used a 23-6 second-quarter spurt to rout the Celtics.

The last time the Celtics didn't make the playoffs was in 1978-79, when they posted a 29-53 mark the year before Larry Bird arrived and made Boston a perennial playoff power.

However, the retirement of Bird and Kevin McHale over the past two seasons and the death of Reggie Lewis last summer depleted the Celtics, who are out of playoff contention with a 26-45 record.

Bulls 114, Bulls 88  
Scottie Pippen had 22 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds, and the Bulls used a 21-8 run at the outset of the second half against Washington to win their fifth consecutive game.

The victory was the Bulls' 11th in 13th games and it was their 15th straight over the Bulls, whose last win in Chicago was exactly six years ago.

Magic 104, Bucks 97  
The Magic, playing without ailing center Shaquille O'Neal, got 22 points and 10 rebounds from Jeff Turner against visiting Milwaukee.



LOOSE BALL — Cleveland's Terrell Brandon is fouled by Charlotte's Frank Brickowski. (Reuter)

O'Neal sat out the game with a stomach virus, the first time in his two-year career that he missed a game because of injury or illness.

Turner took up the slack, scoring 14 points in the first half when the Magic opened a 20-point lead. Rookie Penny Hardaway scored 21 points for the Magic, who need one more victory or another Charlotte loss to officially qualify for the playoffs.

Cavaliers 105, Hornets 99  
John Williams scored 23 points and host Cleveland overcame horrendous early shooting to beat Charlotte.

The loss kept the Hornets winless in 13 trips to Richmond and further damaged the Hornets' hopes of making the playoffs. Cleveland closed the game with an 18-9 run, starting with Gerald Wilkins' tying 3-pointer with 4:51 left, and won for the fifth time in six games.

The Cavs need one more win to clinch a playoff berth. Charlotte dropped 5 1/2 games behind New Jersey in the battle for the last playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Tuesday's results: Miami 100, New York 86; New Jersey 120, Boston 94; Orlando 104, Milwaukee 91; Chicago 114, Washington 96; Cleveland 105, Charlotte 99; Seattle 84, Utah 79; Portland 135, Phoenix 113; Dallas 86, Sacramento 88; Golden State 106, San Antonio 101; Indiana 105, Detroit 89; LA Clippers 92, Denver 91.

## Hap. Jerusalem needs to go all out tonight

Mac. Tel Aviv faces Hap. Herzliya in other basketball semifinal

HAPOEL Jerusalem has got its work cut out for it in the first round of the best-of-five semifinals of the playoffs in the National Basketball League which get under way tonight.

Jerusalem meets Hapoel Tel Aviv at Ussishkin and Maccabi Tel Aviv hosts Hapoel Herzliya at Yad Eliyahu. Barring a sensational upset, Maccabi should have no trouble disposing of Herzliya and the big question mark hangs over the Ussishkin clash.

Jerusalem's management and players made a final decision this week not to take back Orlando Phillips who went to the US in mid-season. They managed to get to the top four without him, but it will be hard going against the rugged Tel Aviv defense with only one American con-

JOEL GORDIN

tract player.

To boot, playmaker Adi Gordon has still not fully recovered from the sickness which has bothered him since the season's start. Still, Norris Coleman, Mickey Berkowitz and Hubert Roberts are all in top form, while the blue & white bench of Papi Turgeman, Danny Gott and Pini Lavi is one of the season's more pleasant surprises.

Jerusalem has spent most of the week at a training camp at Kfar Maccabiah. Morale is high as the players feel they've got a legitimate shot at the finals.

It won't be easy. Unpredictable though the

team may be, Tel Aviv is always a force to be reckoned with at Ussishkin and a close-fought, tough, probably even rough, contest is expected.

In the lower playoffs, Hapoel Eilat is at home to Maccabi Ramat Gan and Hapoel Galil Elyon hosts Maccabi Rishon LeZion.

There were two major surprises in the first round of the relegation/promotion trials on Tuesday night. Both second division teams beat their first division opponents: Maccabi Netanya beat Hapoel Givatayim 74-70 and Maccabi Haifa defeated Hapoel Gvat 81-79.

The two top teams will play in the national league next season.

## Man Utd center of FA Cup semis

INSIDE ENGLISH SOCCER

LEN BREWER

THE FA Cup semifinals at Wembley take the spotlight this weekend. Once again, there's no show without Manchester United, which faces its neighbors, Oldham Athletic on Sunday.

Despite mounting pressure which has seen the team beaten in the League Cup final and its lead in the Premier League trimmed to three points, it would be one of the biggest shocks in years if United was to fall at this juncture against a team deeply involved in a relegation battle.

Twenty-four hours earlier, it's an all southern affair when Luton Town carries the First Division flag against Premier League Chelsea.

It will be remembered that Luton's manager, David Pleat, is the only Jewish manager in English soccer.

His tactical expertise could swing the game his team's way.

Chelsea's player-manager, Glen Hoddle, has found it tough in the fast lane during his first season at Stamford Bridge, yet despite problems in the league, he's done remarkably well to have guided his side this far in the competition.

Hoddle knows Wembley like the back of his hand, and on his day there are fewer better players who can exploit its wide open spaces.

An interesting facet of the tie will be the appearance of Kerry Dixon in Luton's colors. Now approaching the veteran stage, Dixon is regarded as a folk hero at Chelsea for whom he scored nearly 200 goals before he was surprisingly transferred to Southampton two years ago.

Life, though, has gone full circle for the player who embarked on his illustrious career with Luton.

As a 16-year-old, he was a member of the club's successful youth team, only to be told he wasn't good enough to stay on as a full time professional. His manager then... David Pleat.

The English Football Association, in an unprecedented move, has agreed to a request from Arsenal to call off Saturday's Premier League fixture with Wimbledon.

The Gunners had asked for the postponement in order to increase their chances of making it to the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup. On Tuesday, they entertain Paris Saint Germain in the semifinal, second leg of the competition. The teams played a one-all draw in France last month, and with away goals counting double, the odds must be on Arsenal.

Only Newcastle United of the top five Premier League clubs is in action on Saturday. The team leaves the North East for the North West to face a resurgent Manchester City at Main Road.

Two weeks ago, City seemed to be on the slippery slope to the First Division, but, eight points from its last four games, including successive victories over Aston Villa and fellow strugglers, Southampton, has eased the pressure. Newcastle will be foolish to take this game lightly.

Two wins in a row appeared to have put paid to Tottenham relegation worries, but Monday's 4-1 home defeat by West Ham has

indicated the hinges of the trap door once again, and defeat at Coventry in two days' time is unthinkable for Osia Ardiles and his players.

Terry Sheringham, out of Tottenham's team for 25 games with a serious knee injury, was all smiles after scoring on his comeback in last Saturday's win at Norwich. Amazingly, despite his long absence, he remains the North London club's leading goalscorer with 12 goals.

I'll be keeping my eyes on events at Upton Park where once mighty Everton faces West Ham. A disastrous run of results have landed Mike Walker's squad in real relegation trouble.

In the space of 48 hours, last weekend, the team was beaten 5-1 by Sheffield Wednesday, and 3-0 by Blackburn. Indeed, Tony Cottee's goal at Sheffield was Everton's first for 6 1/2 hours.

Unfashionable Notts County is proving something of a surprise package in the First Division. After a slow start to the season, County appears to be emerging from the shadows of City rivals, Forest.

An impressive run of form which includes six successive home victories has put the team in contention for a place in the promotion playoffs. Its 15 home wins are the best in the division, and they should add to that total against Bolton on the weekend.

The Second Division's pace setters, Reading, should be too strong for a Cardiff side which is desperate to climb away from near the foot of the table. However, there's no escape for Barnet even though it still has seven games of the season remaining.

## Dodgers open season with a win over Marlins

LOS ANGELES (AP) — If the best way for the Dodgers to put Darryl Strawberry's latest problem behind them is simply winning, they took a step in that direction Tuesday.

Pinch-hitter Jeff Treadway's sacrifice fly with one out in the eighth inning gave the Dodgers a 4-3 season-opening victory over the Florida Marlins, a day after Strawberry admitted he had a substance abuse problem and went on the disabled list.

Henry Rodriguez, Strawberry's

replacement in left field, opened the eighth with a walk off loser Jeremy Hernandez. A throwing error by rookie shortstop Kurt Abbott on a rundown and Treadway's sacrifice fly produced the go-ahead run.

Abbott's two-run homer in the seventh off winner Jim Gott put the Marlins ahead 3-2. Todd Worrell pitched a perfect ninth for the save.

Mets 6, Cubs 2  
Pete Smith pitched seven strong innings in his Mets debut and visiting New York beat the Cubs for the sec-

ond straight day.  
A 25 mph wind blowing toward right field dropped the 35-degree temperature to a wind-chill of 6 degrees. The cold weather kept the ball in the park, a day after six home runs were hit in the Mets' 12-8 win.

Expos 5, Astros 1  
Larry Walker hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning, leading visiting Montreal past Doug Drabek and the Astros.

Ken Hill (1-0) gave up six hits in six innings. Three Montreal pitchers finished with shutout relief.

Drabek, who led the NL in losses with a 9-18 record last season, walked

Marquis Grissom and Mike Lansing in the sixth. After an RBI grounder by Rondell White put the Expos ahead 2-1, Walker homered over the center-field fence.

Giants 2, Pirates 0  
Bill Swift gave three hits in seven innings and the host Giants kept Pittsburgh scoreless this season.

Tuesday's NL results:  
New York 4, Chicago 2  
San Francisco 2, Pittsburgh 0  
Los Angeles 4, Florida 3  
Montreal 5, Houston 1  
Atlanta 5, San Diego 1  
Tuesday's AL results:  
Milwaukee 11, Oakland 7  
Toronto 5, Chicago 3  
California 8, Minnesota 2

## Hap. Haifa gets surprising win over Mac. Netanya

ORI LEWIS

HAIFA will still have a representative in the State Cup despite high-flying Maccabi's exit against Maccabi Tel Aviv on Tuesday.

The port city's representation will come from Hapoel Haifa, which appears doomed for relegation. The Haifaite scored a 2-0 win over Maccabi Netanya at Kiryat Eliezer yesterday in the only outstanding last 16 round match.

Goals by Shlomi Elbaz in the

48th minute and Netzah Massubi in the 82nd, gave Haifa the cushion it needed while their keeper, Andrei Pucholov, had an excellent day in goal to keep Netanya off the scoreboard.

Haifa joins an all-National League lineup for the quarter-final draw which will include: Maccabi and Hapoel Tel Aviv, Hapoel Holon, Maccabi and Hapoel Petah Tikva, Ironi Ashdod and Bnei Yehuda.

## Ribstein honored at Wingate

JOSH KALMAN

THE Wingate Institute for Physical Education and Sport celebrated the official completion of a new sports research center on Tuesday in a ceremony honoring the man whose donation made the achievement possible — Karl Ribstein.

The Ribstein Center for Research will study the physiological and psychological aspects of exercise and human performance and will provide athletes with information on their daily training and long-term goals.

MK Shevah Weiss, Netanya Mayor Zvi Poleg, Israel Sports Authority director Yairi Oren, Wingate director Gilad Weingarten and German Ambassador to Israel Franz Bertele all thanked Ribstein, a Holocaust survivor from Munich, who has sponsored many Israeli causes, notably at the Wingate Institute.

"The rebuilding of a modern state is the collective result of Jewish energy. Our feeling in Israel is a feeling of pioneers," said Weiss, referring to Ribstein's contribution.

"This act is another milestone in the long and cordial relationship between my country and Wingate," noted Bertele.

Ribstein in turn thanked all involved and said he would continue to support further Wingate developments.

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## Ramon to run as independent in Histadrut election

FORMER health minister Haim Ramon has definitely decided to run at the head of an independent list in the Histadrut elections, his closest political allies said last night.

Ramon was busy yesterday seeking to entice candidates from a number of parties to join his list. He contacted MKs Meir Sheerit (Likud) and Shmuel Avital (Labor). Neither has given him an answer yet. His only recruit so far is MK Amir Peretz (Labor).

Another long-time Ramon associate, MK Hagai Merom, reported that Ramon has "already made up his mind. I found him absolutely determined to leave Labor. Ramon understands that the minute he challenges the official Labor candidate for Histadrut secretary-general [Haim Haberfeld] he will be expelled from the party. I can't describe this as a step Ramon might take. To me, it looks like he has already taken the step. It is all but final and I can't honestly say how it could all be reversed now."

According to reports from those close to Ramon, his main problem is that his closest political allies have no intention of joining him. Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, and MKs Avraham Burg, Yael Dayan, Nawaf Massalha, and Merom have already told Ramon they will not follow him out of Labor.

Avital has frequently supported Ramon and Peretz, has occasionally joined their anti-Histadrut

SARAH HONIG

campaigns, and has threatened to vote with them in the Knesset. However, he usually backed down prior to crucial votes and never made good his threats. He met with Peretz yesterday and reported that Peretz sought to convince him to join Ramon's list. Avital said he is "considering the move seriously," but he had not yet given his final answer.

Ramon is also reportedly awaiting an answer from Sheerit, who had sought to convince Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu to put him at the head of the party's Histadrut list in place of MK Ya'acov Shamai. When Netanyahu refused, Sheerit toyed with the idea of his own ticket and even mentioned Peretz as his No. 2. In the end, however, he said he would not run without the Likud's blessing.

Shamai doubted that "Sheerit would cut his own political throat for a bird in the bush. It is far from certain that Ramon has anything in mind but to extract a promise from [Prime Minister Yitzhak] Rabin to reinstate him as minister."

This is also the prevailing view inside much of Labor, especially among Ramon's foes. As they see it, Ramon's mood darkened after reports this week that Rabin has no intention to reappoint him to the government in the near future. This was underscored by a conversation Ramon had with Foreign

Minister Shimon Peres, in which he sought to create for himself a new information ministry, which would have carved somewhat into the territory of Peres's ministry. Peres turned the idea down flat and the meeting between the two was described by both sides as "a very unpleasant encounter."

The fear in Labor is that Ramon would chip away at the party's majority in the Histadrut and after the elections form a coalition with Meretz and the Likud to overhaul the Labor federation.

Meretz is said to be considering joining forces with Ramon in the event he throws his hat in the Histadrut ring. Thus far Meretz has not given Ramon a firm answer, though Mapam indicated it would join forces with him.

Tourism Minister Uzi Baram yesterday warned Meretz that "it would be creating a terrible rift in the coalition if it joined Ramon in such a venture. Labor would be unable to suffer its major coalition partner seeming to pull away a former minister and field him against his own party."

Baram strongly criticized Rabin for "not returning Ramon to the government now. I know that Rabin said he would consider taking Ramon back after the Histadrut elections, but what would be all right then is a must now. If Rabin waits, it will be too late. He must move now to prevent Ramon from walking out and doing irreparable damage to Labor's interests in the Histadrut."

## Ben-Eliezer suspends permit allowing farmers to sell land to developers

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

HOUSING Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer yesterday took another step in his plan to reduce housing costs. In a meeting of the Israel Lands Administration Council, which he chairs, it was decided to suspend the permit allowing farmers to sell agricultural land to developers.

The permit was given some two years ago, while Ariel Sharon was housing minister, to reduce housing costs and relieve the housing plight of young couples and those eligible for government housing aid.

However, Ben-Eliezer said, speculators took advantage of the permit by buying land and holding it, instead of building the housing they had promised in their contracts. As a result, the shortage of housing persisted and housing costs continued to soar.

Out of 10,400 housing units for which the administration had issued approvals since the permit was issued, not even one apartment was built, Ben-Eliezer said. Consequently, he and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat decided to appoint a committee, headed by Finance Ministry Director-General Aharon Fogel, to study the matter and present recommendations within 60 days.

The ILA will stop processing all permit requests until the recommendations are made.

## Haberfeld: Labor will win with or without Ramon

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Labor Party will win the Histadrut elections even if MK Haim Ramon leaves the party and runs at the head of a non-partisan list for the Histadrut leadership, Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld said yesterday.

At the same time, Haberfeld said he does not think Ramon should leave the Labor Party, despite the conflict between Ramon and the Histadrut, and that he would not object to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin giving Ramon any portfolio he sees fit.

Haberfeld charged Ramon with conducting a war over his career and seat in the cabinet, rather than over ideology and serious economic and social issues. Commenting on the possibility that Ramon might form his own list, Haberfeld said Ramon "is known for his capricious pranks and in the damage that he causes the party. Ramon is fighting for his personal political career, he is not the least interested in the Histadrut's management and its implications on the economy and workers."

Haberfeld also accused Ramon of producing surveys indicating his victory in the Histadrut elections, and said that despite Ramon's "custom-made surveys and declarations,

the voters will react very differently. Regardless of whether he runs an independent list or with Meretz - in view of his moves I would not be surprised to hear of a coalition between Ramon and Shamai (Likud)."

Meretz sources yesterday firmly denied reports that the party's leaders were negotiating with Ramon over his joining Meretz's list for the Histadrut elections. MK Ran Cohen, No. 2 on Meretz's Histadrut list, reiterated his statement that as long as Ramon is a member of Labor it would be unethical to seduce him to leave, although "if I could choose between Haberfeld and Ramon for Histadrut secretary-general, I would prefer Ramon."

The report that Mapam had reached an agreement to go with Ramon aroused fury among Mapam's Histadrut members, who yesterday announced that they would not cooperate with Ramon should he run independently in the Histadrut elections. "Nobody asked us, nobody consulted us about such a possibility and we have no intention of joining Ramon. Ramon has no interest in the Histadrut and all he wants is to pressure Rabin and Labor to give him a minister's portfolio," they said.



Israeli students taking part this week in the March of the Living walk past barracks in Auschwitz. (Elihu Harari)

## Rabin: Our duty to remember Holocaust

BATSHEVA TSUR

A SOLEMN gathering ushered in Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day as darkness fell last night.

The nation's flags were lowered to half-mast while President Ezer Weizman lit the flame of remembrance in the plaza of Yad Vashem and an IDF guard of honor presented arms.

"We paid a heavy price today for our desire to live in peace," Weizman said before turning to the memory of the Holocaust. "Innocent people lost their lives in a dastardly act in Afula just as peace stood at our gates."

"The week that starts now and ends with Independence Day marks the two most significant events in Jewish history since the destruction of the Second Temple," Weizman said.

"Fifty years have passed and already there are those who have risen up to deny the Holocaust. They are almost as dangerous as the Holocaust itself."

Echoing the warnings about Holocaust revisionism, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin declared: "Quietly and gradually the survivors are slipping away from among us, those who suffered and could tell."

Referring to Holocaust deniers, Rabin said: "Those who once whispered wicked things are now raising their voices to spew forth their lies."

"It is a national and historic duty to talk, not to hide anything," Rabin said, calling on survivors to record their experiences in every way possible. "The Holocaust is part of the personal biography of each and every one of us, even if we were not there."

As six beacons were lit in memory of the six million, and scenes of 1944 flashed across a giant screen, those present at Yad Vashem marked 50 years since the destruction of Hungary's Jews and of Ghetto Lodz, the central theme of this year's observance.

This morning at 10, sirens will sound nationwide and two minutes of silence be observed. At Yad Vashem, the Knesset, and other public places, the names of Holocaust victims will be read aloud as part of a commemoration called "Unto Every Person There is a Name."

## Peres to Turkey for talks

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres will hold talks in Ankara next week, Israeli and Turkish officials confirmed yesterday.

"The visit will focus on the peace process and other bilateral issues," said Gil Haskel, a ministry spokesman. "The trip has been scheduled for some time."

"We find it positive that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization have heeded the suggestions of many countries including Turkey and agreed to continue talks," Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman said in Ankara yesterday.

One issue that could arise during the talks is Israel's attitude toward the Kurds. In a closed-door session of the Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee last month, MK Ephraim Sneh asked Peres about Israel's policy towards the Kurds.

According to sources present, Peres replied, "We support Kurdish rights in Iraq, but don't feel the same way about those Kurds living in Turkey."

The two sides are also to discuss bilateral issues, including an agreement to prevent double taxation and encourage mutual investments. Apart from holding talks in Ankara, Peres is also to visit Istanbul during his trip, from April 10-12.

## Immigration falls 15 percent

BATSHEVA TSUR

IMMIGRATION dropped 15% in the first quarter of this year, compared with the same period in 1993.

From January to March 1994, 16,695 immigrants arrived here, compared with 19,566 in the same period last year, acting

Jewish Agency chairman Yehiel Leket said yesterday. A total of 13,126 olim came from the CIS during this period, down 20%.

Of the 3,588 olim who arrived last month, 4,300 were from the former Soviet Union. Leket said.

## Unprecedented Vatican concert to mark Holocaust

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) - The Vatican will pay unprecedented tribute to the memory of six million Jews killed by the Nazis at a concert today to commemorate the Holocaust.

Pope John Paul, Rome Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff, and survivors of the Holocaust will be among 7,500 guests in the Paul VI Auditorium adjoining St. Peter's Basilica.

Today's concert, performed by Britain's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the choir of St. Peter's Basilica under American conductor Gilbert Levine, will be the Vatican's first official commemoration of the Holocaust.

It follows a landmark accord on diplomatic ties between Israel and the Holy See in December after 2,000 years of often hostile relations between Christians and Jews.

"It is in a way a culmination of any conductor's dream to be able to put music to the service of spiritual reconciliation between any two faiths," Levine told Reuters.

He called the concert an "extraordinary moment" that would record for history Roman Catholic recognition of the suffering of

Jews under the Nazis in World War II.

Levine, a New York-born Jew whose mother-in-law survived Auschwitz, is conductor laureate of the Krakow Philharmonic Orchestra in the pontiff's Polish home city.

He said he had worked for at most three years to bring about the concert, which will be televised throughout Europe and recorded for later broadcast in the United States.

"I had suggested that the pope should attend the concert, but he brought it into the Vatican," Levine said. "It is a testimony to the pope's determination and willingness to bring Catholics and Jews together."

Oscar-winning American actor Richard Dreyfuss will narrate parts of Leonard Bernstein's "Kaddish" Symphony during the program.

The choir of St. Peter's Basilica will sing a setting by Schubert, a Catholic, of Psalm 92 in the original Hebrew.

The Vatican announced in 1987 that it would publish a major document on the Holocaust, but it has yet to appear.

## Jesse Jackson begins visit here today, may meet with Hamas

US CIVIL rights leader Jesse Jackson, who arrives this afternoon for a six-day visit as a guest of the government, may meet with Hamas members during his stay.

Jackson is to speak next week at a conference on the 30th anniversary of the PLO in Jerusalem. He will be accompanied by his wife, Jacqueline.

Asked by reporters in Washington yesterday whether he would be meeting with Hamas, Jackson said: "We don't want to try to get into all that now. Suffice it to say, we are open to meet and look forward, and if in fact permits are issued for all of the interested parties to come to the conference, we'll have the time to meet."

Jackson said his entourage, which includes staff members of his National

Rainbow Coalition and Arab-American Institute president James Zogby, is "hoping to talk with a cross-section of groups, religious and secular in their nature."

He hinted that meeting with Hamas members would be an opportunity for "building coalition" in support of the peace process.

Refusing to call Hamas an extremist organization, Jackson said: "I'm not inclined to label people extreme so as to polarize them. I'm far more interested in trying to identify the legitimate needs that must be addressed for coexistence, and that becomes the critical matter."

"I'm just not into the labeling business. It does not give us an additional benefit in this. We must all become extremists for peace - and no justice, no peace."

HILLEL KUTTLER and DAVID MAKOVSKY

Top government officials here will be rolling out the red carpet for Jackson, someone it used to consider a pariah.

"We see Jackson as a key figure in the African-American community, and hope his visit will help both black-Jewish relations in the US and help Israel as it seeks to improve relations with a new South Africa," an official in Jerusalem said yesterday.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is to meet with Jackson on Monday, and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is to host a dinner on Saturday night. Peres invited Jackson to visit Israel a year ago.

Israel's new approach to Jackson marks a sharp change from the past. The

country was once up in arms over Jackson's embrace of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in 1979, and over his 1984 campaign remark calling New York "Hymietown."

In contrast, in remarks to a World Jewish Congress audience in Brussels a couple of years ago, Jackson spoke approvingly of Zionism and condemned antisemitism.

There has also been quiet hope that Jackson would serve as a counterweight to the antisemitic comments of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. Jackson has outrightly condemned vituperative remarks made by Farrakhan's aide, Khalid Mohammed, but has resisted disassociating himself from Farrakhan himself.

Some American Jewish groups are privately disgruntled that Israeli officials did

not coordinate with them in advance of the Jackson trip. However, Anti-Defamation League Israel representative Harry Wall, whose group has been at the center of the dispute with Farrakhan, voiced hope that the Jackson visit will ultimately bolster black-Jewish relations.

"We hope this visit will be another step forward in advancing issues on the black-Jewish agenda," noting Jackson's more favorable remarks during the last few years in condemning antisemitism.

In ostensible allusion to Farrakhan, Wall added, "We would like to see this visit lead him to speak out against the forces of hatred in both the white and black communities."

(A lengthy interview with Jackson will appear in tomorrow's 'News in Focus' section.)

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